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Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-009 CONTENTS *14 January 1992*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

- Underground Blasts To Destroy Nuclear Warheads *[Radio Rossii]* ... 1
- 'False Alarm' Shuts Down Leningradskaya AES *[Radio Rossii]* ... 1
- Vienna Arms Talks Resume; Russia Vows Support *[TASS]* ... 1
- Parties to CFE Treaty Confer in Brussels *[PRAVDA 14 Jan]* ... 1
- Commentary on Nuclear Arms Talks Prospects *[Moscow International]* ... 2

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Shevardnadze, Kissinger Discuss CIS Future *[INTERFAX]* ... 3
  - Shaposhnikov Receives Kissinger *[INTERFAX]* ... 3
- Kalugin on KGB 'Access' to POWs in Vietnam *[Radio Rossii]* ... 3
  - Joint Commission To Probe Reports *[IZVESTIYA 13 Jan]* ... 4
- U.S. Welcomes Black Sea Fleet Agreements *[TASS]* ... 4
- Delegations Question CIS Nuclear Security *[IZVESTIYA 13 Jan]* ... 4

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Commonwealth

- Draft Treaty on 'Economic Commonwealth' Given *[IZVESTIYA 13 Jan]* ... 6

Baltics

- Council's Appeal on Troop Withdrawal Published *[EKHO LITVY 7 Jan]* ... 8

Central Asia

- Muslim Board Head Dismissed, Babakhan Returns *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 10 Jan]* .. 9

Military

- Comparison of Military Reform Plans Charted *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 31 Dec]* ... 9
- Black Sea Fleet Tactical Capabilities Profiled *[Russian TV]* ... 13
- Further on All-Army Officers' Conference ... 13
  - 'Consultative Nature' Emphasized *[Moscow Radio]* ... 13
  - Not Planning 'Ultimatum' *[INTERFAX]* ... 13
- Staff Expert on Russian-Ukrainian Negotiations *[INTERFAX]* ... 13
- Oath-Taking Process To Be Completed by 20 Jan *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 9 Jan]* ... 14
- Black Sea Fleet 'Focus of Public Attention' *[IZVESTIYA 11 Jan]* ... 14
- Radionov Interviewed on Future of Armed Forces *[Moscow TV]* ... 15
- Lobov Suggests Solution for Situation *[IZVESTIYA 14 Jan]* ... 17
- Troops' Discontent With Situation Published ... 18
  - Moscow Officers Appeal *[PRAVDA 14 Jan]* ... 18
  - Transcaucasus Officers Appeal *[TASS]* ... 19
  - Questions Voiced *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 Jan]* ... 19
- Tensions Cited Over Housing Considerations *[Hamburg DIE WELT 14 Jan]* ... 20

Political

- Democratic Parties Attend Consultative Congress *[POSTFACTUM]* ... 21

Economic & Social

Unified Transport Network To Be Retained *[IZVESTIYA 11 Jan]* 21
Prospect of General Miners Strike Viewed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 14 Jan]* 22

Media

TASS Carries 14 Jan Press Review 23

RUSSIA

International Affairs

Kozyrev Begins Visit to Estonia, Germany *[TASS]* 24
  On Genscher Discussion Topics *[Berlin ADN]* 24
Swedish Minister Discusses 'Painful Matters' *[TASS]* 24
No Contention in Treaty With Lithuania Cited *[BALTFAX]* 24
No Plans Yet To Recognize Croatia, Slovenia *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 25
Union Leader Blames Ukraine for Shortages *[Moscow Radio]* 25
Siberians To 'Turn Back' Ukraine Nuclear Waste *[IZVESTIYA 13 Jan]* 25
Zhirinovskiy To Meet Turkish Leaders in Ankara *[INTERFAX]* 26
IMF Team Collects Information on Economy *[TASS]* 26
Delegation To Visit NATO Headquarters *[INTERFAX]* 26
Journal Interviews Bakatin on Bugging Devices *[ARGUMENTY I FAKTY Jan 92]* 27
PRAVDA Assesses Bush's Asia-Pacific Tour *[11 Jan]* 28
Sakhalin Governor Arrives in South Korea *[INTERFAX]* 29
Government To Observe Soviet-DPRK Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 29
Japan Aid 'Will Depend' on Kurils Settlement *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 Jan]* 29
Khasbulatov Meets With Italian Senators *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 14 Jan]* 30
TASS Cites Genscher on Vienna Talks 30

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin To Visit Bryansk, St. Petersburg *[INTERFAX]* 30
  Interviewed Prior to Visit *[Moscow TV]* 31
'Sources' Say Yeltsin 'May Quit' Government *[INTERFAX]* 31
  Yeltsin Spokesman Denies Report *[TASS]* 31
Officials Respond to Khasbulatov Criticisms 31
  Gaydar Interviewed on Differences *[Russian TV]* 31
  Further Gaydar Comment *[Radio Rossii]* 32
  Shakray: Statements 'Irresponsible' *[Moscow TV]* 32
  Commentator Views Criticism *[Russian TV]* 33
Industrialists, Entrepreneurs Hold Congress 34
  Yeltsin Addresses Congress *[Moscow TV]* 34
  Proceedings of Congress Viewed *[TASS]* 38
  Volskiy Cited on Congress *[INTERFAX]* 38
  Participants' Compatability 'Distressing' *[IZVESTIYA 13 Jan]* 38
  Economic Relations Near 'Collapse' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 Jan]* 39
Coup Inquiry Completed; No Gorbachev Link *[TASS]* 40
  Organizers Charged With 'Conspiracy' *[TASS]* 40
  Gorbachev 'Forbidden' To Travel *[Russian TV]* 41
  Second Putschist Released *[IZVESTIYA 13 Jan]* 41
Fuel, Power Minister Holds News Conference 41
  Comments on Price Increases *[TASS]* 41
  Favors 'Sensible Privatization' *[Russian TV]* 42
  Stages for Restructure Outlined *[INTERFAX]* 42
Government Warned To Heed Trade Union Demands *[Russian TV]* 42
  Protest Action Planned for 17 Jan *[IZVESTIYA 13 Jan]* 43
Government To Purchase Food at Market Prices *[INTERFAX]* 43
Burbulis Cited on Reforms, Social Protection *[TASS]* 43
Rutskoy Hospitalized for 'Routine' Check *[IZVESTIYA 13 Jan]* 44

'Russian National Revival Party' Established *[TASS]* 44
Anti-Liberalization Rallies Protest Government *[INTERFAX]* 44
'Single Passport' To Serve at Home, Abroad *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 11 Jan]* 45
Oil Output Decreases 124 Million Tonnes *[Moscow International]* 45

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Addresses Presidium 13 Jan 45
    Reports on Ryazan Visit *[Moscow Radio]* 45
    Cites Possible Government Changes *[Russian TV]* 47
    Denies Rumored Appointment *[TASS]* 47
    Says Reform Decision 'Senseless' *[INTERFAX]* 47
Presidium Approves Control, Budget Chamber *[INTERFAX]* 48
Parliament Agenda for 15 Jan Previewed 48
    Khasbulatov Cites Agenda *[Radio Rossii]* 48
    TASS Outlines Agenda 48
Yeltsin To Address 16 Jan Session *[INTERFAX]* 49
Khasbulatov Interviewed on Economy, Federation *[Radio Rossii]* 49
Khasbulatov, Businessmen Discuss Market *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 11 Jan]* 51
Interstate Treaty With Estonia Ratified *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 11 Jan]* 51

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Arrives in Bryansk for Visit 52
    Situation in Bryansk Viewed *[Moscow Radio]* 52
    Chernobyl Issues Focus of Visit *[INTERFAX]* 52
St. Petersburg Awaits Yeltsin Visit *[INTERFAX]* 53
Chechen, Ingush Seek Border Dispute Solution *[INTERFAX]* 53

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Further Reportage on Black Sea Fleet Situation 54
    Results of Talks Discussed *[Moscow Radio]* 54
    Halting of Pay Denied *[INTERFAX]* 54
    Crimean Presidium Expresses Concern *[Kiev International]* 54
    Defense Group Visits Fleet *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 Jan]* 54
Czech Government Delegation Arrives in Kiev 54
    3-Day Visit Planned *[Prague Radio]* 54
    Preliminary Results Cited *[Prague CSTK]* 55
Diplomatic Relations With Sweden Established *[TASS]* 55
Recruitment to Croatian Detachments Reported *[TASS]* 56

National Affairs

'Alleged' 1986 Nuclear Weapons Test Reported *[SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA Dec 91]* 56
Resolution Issued To Transfer Party Property *[URYADOVYY KURYER Dec 91]* 57

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Supreme Soviet in 'Furious Debate' on Military *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 Jan]* 59
    Shuskevich Comments on Meeting *[TRUD 14 Jan]* 59
    Officers Consider Unified Command *[Moscow TV]* 60
Kravchenko Satisfied With CIS Talks Outcome *[TASS]* 61
Goods Coupons Issued to Officers, Families *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Jan]* 61

Moldova

- Snegur Cables Yeltsin on Moscow Mission Attack *[Bucharest Radio]* 61
- 'Separatists' Blamed for Shooting Attack *[TASS]* 62
- Fines Set for Insulting, Slandering Leaders *[TASS]* 62
- Defense Department Prepares Military Doctrine *[INTERFAX]* 62
- Muravschi Discusses Economic Reform, Romania *[Bucharest Radio]* 62
- Snegur Urges Local Authorities Toward Reform *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 63

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

- Government To Establish Interior Troops *[INTERFAX]* 64
- Nazarbayev Attends Meetings on Military *[POSTFACTUM]* 64
  - Comments on Armed Forces *[INTERFAX]* 64
- Council Appoints Internal Troops Commander *[Moscow TV]* 64
- Nazarbayev Criticizes 'Forced' Price Change *[TASS]* 65
- Supreme Soviet Broadens Presidential Powers *[POSTFACTUM]* 65

Tajikistan

- Dushanbe Garrison Reportedly Swears Oath *[Dushanbe Radio]* 65
  - Report Denied *[Moscow Radio]* 66
- Protestors Urge Elections To Purge Communists *[POSTFACTUM]* 66
- Iran's Maleki on Expansion of Relations *[Tehran IRNA]* 66
  - Iranian Embassy Opens *[Tehran IRNA]* 67
- Iran To Help Introduce New Persian Alphabet *[Moscow International]* 67
- Unified Commonwealth Armed Forces Favored *[INTERFAX]* 67

Uzbekistan

- Supreme Soviet Elects Mutalov Prime Minister *[TASS]* 67
- Control of Former USSR Troops Decreed *[TASS]* 68
- Coupons Introduced; To Circulate With Rubles *[Moscow TV]* 68
- Government Applies For UN Membership *[TASS]* 68
- Trade Agreement Signed With Tajikistan *[Tashkent Radio]* 68

CAUCASUS

Armenia

- President Meets With Gamsakhurdia on Asylum *[Moscow International]* 69
  - Explains Gamsakhurdia Saga *[IZVESTIYA 14 Jan]* 69
- Demonstrators Demand Expulsion of Gamsakhurdia *[Russian TV]* 70
- Deputy Prime Minister Says Situation Critical *[INTERFAX]* 70
- Fuel Shortage Halts Industrial Production *[TASS]* 70
- President Applies To Join IBRD, IMF *[TASS]* 70
  - Meets With IMF Delegation *[Yerevan Radio]* 71
- PRC Delegation Signs Agreements, Departs *[Yerevan International]* 71
- Ter-Petrosyan on Presidential Rule, Economy *[Yerevan Radio]* 71
- Council Presidium Appoints Advisers 10 Jan *[Yerevan International]* 71

Azerbaijan

- Village Near Nagorno-Karabakh Shelled *[INTERFAX]* 72
- Nagorno-Karabakh Situation Causes 'Alarm' *[TASS]* 72
  - Large-Scale Operations Feared *[Moscow Radio]* 72
  - Relations in 'State of War' *[Radio Rossii]* 72
- President Establishes Foreign Trade Bank *[TASS]* 72
- Russia Said To Obstruct Military Buildup *[INTERFAX]* 72

Agreement Signed With Iran on Gas Pipeline *[Baku Radio]* 73
Turkey To Construct 'Largest Mosque' in Area *[Baku Radio]* 73
Republican Party Appeal for Unity Reported *[Baku Radio]* 73

Georgia

Parliament Lacks Quorum; Demonstration Held *[INTERFAX]* 74
    Chairman Addresses Deputies *[TASS]* 74
Council Permits Execution of 'Marauders' *[TASS]* 74
Situation Turning Into 'Economic Instability' *[Moscow TV]* 75
Shevardnadze on Relationship With Georgia *[INTERFAX]* 75
New Government To Consider Joining CIS *[Moscow Radio]* 76
Russian Interior Troops To Leave 15 Jan *[POSTFACTUM]* 76
Democracy Movement Supports Gamsakhurdia Ouster *[INTERFAX]* 76
Political Motives Said Behind Railway Traffic *[Radio Rossii]* 76
Lack of Natural Gas Idles Plants, Enterprises *[POSTFACTUM]* 76

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Parliament Discusses Emergency Powers Proposal *[BALTFAX]* 78
Further on Food Supplies for Army Issue *[Tallinn Radio]* 78
Russian-Speaking Radio News Staff Walks Out *[Tallinn TV]* 78
'Visa Regime' Introduced on Russian Border *[Riga Radio]* 78
Monetary Reform Delayed Until April *[Tallinn Radio]* 79
Tallinn Holds First Auction of Gas Supplies *[BALTFAX]* 79
Fuel Shortages Prompt Cuts in Hot Water *[BALTFAX]* 79

Latvia

Resolution Issued on 14 Jan Military Exercise *[Riga Radio]* 79
    Protest at Military Headquarters *[Riga Radio]* 80
    Godmanis Cancels Exercises *[BALTFAX]* 80
Garrision Commander on Need To Withdraw Troops *[BALTFAX]* 80
OMON Allegedly Involved in Deportations *[Riga International]* 80
    Parfenov Case Reviewed *[BALTFAX]* 81
    Not To Return to Russia *[BALTFAX]* 81
    Wife Claims Arrest Illegal *[BALTFAX]* 81
Independence Movement Urges Military Talks *[Riga Radio]* 82
Leaders Said To Have Sought Presidential Rule *[INTERFAX]* 82
'Week of Memory' Events in Riga Begin 13 Jan *[BALTFAX]* 82

Lithuania

Supreme Council Holds Extraordinary Session *[Vilnius Radio]* 83
    Landsbergis Addresses Session *[Vilnius Radio]* 83
    Vagnorius Addresses Session *[Vilnius Radio]* 84
Procurator General on Russian Extradition *[BALTFAX]* 85
Polish Foreign Minister Visits, Meets Leaders 86
    Saudargas Previews Visit *[Warsaw PAP]* 86
    Speaks on Eve of Visit *[BALTFAX]* 86
    Arrives; Protocol Criticized *[Vilnius Radio]* 86
    Further on Meeting *[Warsaw TV]* 87
    Meets Saudargas; Declaration Signed *[Vilnius Radio]* 87
    Skubiszewski 'Satisfied' *[Warsaw Radio]* 87
    Further on Cooperation Agreement *[Warsaw PAP]* 88
    News Conference Held After Signing *[Vilnius Radio]* 88
    Declaration, Opposition Viewed *[Vilnius Radio]* 89
    Skubiszewski Speaks at Parliament *[Warsaw Radio]* 90
'Friction' Over Polish Minority Status Noted *[PRAVDA 11 Jan]* 90

Underground Blasts To Destroy Nuclear Warheads

LD1301193892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] At the testing ground of the Ministry of Defense in Shykhany, experiments have been completed to discover the effect of high temperatures on chemical weapons, according to a report in the KOMMERSANT newspaper. The experiments were carried out to order for the Chetek joint-stock company, which intends to destroy chemical weapons, nuclear warheads, and highly toxic wastes with the help of underground nuclear explosions.

'False Alarm' Shuts Down Leningradskaya AES

LD1301231292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The Administration of the Leningradskaya AES [nuclear power station] announced today that the emergency shutdown of the station's first power-set was not accompanied by any radiation leak whatsoever. With the details, our correspondent in St. Petersburg:

[Gurinskiy] The Radio Rossii correspondent was told by the secretary to the general director of the station that the power-set was shut down following a false alarm in one of the control circuits of the station's power system. According to this spokesman, the power-set will be functioning again in the next few days.

All the same, today, the administration of the nuclear power station held an emergency meeting with a delegation from the Russian State Committee for Nuclear Power Engineering, which is currently inspecting the station. During the meeting a decision was made to normalize the work of the station in light of the latest incident. Study of projects to modernize the station by taking six RBMK-type reactors off line and replace them with better reactors continues. [passage omitted]

Vienna Arms Talks Resume; Russia Vows Support

LD1301154892 Moscow TASS in English 1514 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna January 13 (TASS)—Talks on conventional armed forces in Europe, confidence-building measures and continental security were resumed here today. The sides are discussing problems linked with the reduction of troops from the Atlantic to the Urals and new, far-reaching confidence-building measures, including military initiatives.

A note of the Russian Foreign Ministry was circulated the day before among the delegations taking part in the talks. It says the Russian Federation will continue the USSR's efforts in the CSCE process.

This refers to the foregoing Vienna talks and also to the joint consultative group on the conventional armed forces treaty for Europe, the consultative committee of the Centre for Preventing Conflicts, the unofficial consultations on the mandate of future talks on security and disarmament in Europe, and to the "open sky" negotiations.

"The Russian Federation," the note points out, "assumes full responsibility for the commitments, fixed by the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for a new Europe, as well as other CSCE documents. It declares its resolution to adhere to provisions."

Parties to CFE Treaty Confer in Brussels

PM1401120192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jan 92 p 4

[Correspondent Vladimir Peresada report: "Treaty Must Operate. Commonwealth of Independent States Coordinates Ties with NATO"]

[Text] Brussels, 13 Jan—A session of a high-level working group formed under the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) has been held at the NATO Headquarters here. It was the first meeting of this kind within the framework of the NACC—an unprecedented institution of cooperation between the NATO countries and the states of Central and East Europe, which was set up last December. The working group examined questions connected with bringing into force the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe signed in Paris in 1990. They have arisen in connection with the changing political landscape in the eastern part of the European continent. Therefore, in addition to representatives of the NATO countries, East European countries, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, which founded the NACC, representatives of seven republics of the former Soviet Union—now independent states whose territory falls within the zone of operation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE]—were invited to the session and participated in it.

A brief yet very clear final communique was adopted. It emphasizes that the treaty is not liable to be revised and will come into force as soon as possible. The pledges made under the treaty by the former Soviet Union will be fulfilled by all the new independent states which have been formed within its zone of operation and will be allocated among them in a way that will prove acceptable to all the parties to the treaty. It is envisaged that this result will be achieved by the independent states collectively.

The communique states that the whole process of preparing to bring the treaty into force must also be very compressed. A formal date is not named, but the document in fact denotes the intention to complete it before the top-level meeting of CSCE participant states due in Helsinki this summer. The working group's second session will be held in Brussels as early as 14 February and will have an agenda focused on just this goal.

I asked V. Petrovskiy, Russia's special representative who participated in the meeting, to comment on its results.

"The whole purpose of this session," he said, "was defined as a very important question: how to bring the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe into force without delay. It has arisen because a totally new political and geographic reality has taken shape in the European part of the former USSR since the treaty was signed. In this connection we declared here that Russia, being the USSR's successor, retains full responsibility for all the former Union's rights and obligations stemming from the treaty. At the same time, however, we pointed out that the treaty can be applied effectively only if it is approved by all seven independent states which have been formed within its zone of operation.

"It is characteristic that the members of the working group unanimously advocated that not only Russia but also all the new independent states confirm their obligations under the treaty. I also wish to emphasize something else. Russia's stance in respect of the fact that the package of questions connected with bringing this treaty into force within the borders of the former USSR must be resolved by the new independent states jointly, together, met with full understanding. Proceeding precisely from this, the working group will examine political and juridical aspects of its ratification at its February session.

"Was everything 'smooth' among the representatives of our independent states?

"Frankly speaking, there are nuances in the positions, but this, in general, is natural. I am not dramatizing this in any way, because the process of developing statehood is under way in the former republics. Each one has its own national interests, its own special features. The chief thing is that there is, on the whole, full understanding on fundamental, cardinal problems. No one has raised the question of revising the treaty. All are conscious of the need not only for its ratification but also for actions in keeping with the pledges contained in it. All advocate the speediest coming into force of the treaty's principles in the belief that it can be a launch pad for a new stage of disarmament. This is the most important result of the meeting."

Commentary on Nuclear Arms Talks Prospects

LD1301152892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Text] The American military-political delegation headed by U.S. Under Secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew, arrived this week in the Russian capital, Moscow. The delegation will also visit Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine. Discussions with political and military leaders of the four nuclear republics will center on the control of nuclear weapons and prospects for their reduction and nonproliferation. Our commentary is by Yuriy Solton.

[Solton] The American trip can justly be viewed as inspecting. It is understandable that the Americans wish to make sure that nuclear weapons accumulated by the now defunct Soviet Union, that is some 25-30 thousand warheads, have been placed under reliable control, that they cannot leak out from the territory of the former Soviet Union and that all agreements on nuclear weapons reductions will be observed. No doubt the American side will get all these guarantees.

But an inspection of the controls' reliability appears to be not enough under the circumstances. It's high time to discuss specific matters pertaining to dismantling nuclear weapons, including concrete technical things. True, the Soviet-American START Treaty signed last summer in Moscow is not yet ratified owing to the developments in the former Soviet Union. But this is a question of the near future. The Russian leadership, for one, has already declared it is prepared not only to observe the treaty provisions but to go far beyond the treaty boundaries. So it is planned to reduce strategic warheads not to 6,000 as stipulated by the treaty but to 3,000-4,000. Judging from reports from Washington the United States also intends to cut its nucelar arsenal, not by one-third as was previously planned but by half, leaving for itself only some 5,000 strategic warheads.

Last year Moscow and Washington declared it was time to start destroying tactical nuclear weapons. All four former Soviet republics where such weapons are deployed confirmed their loyalty to such a decision. However, what matters are not only political decisions but technical and economic possibilities for their realization. When the agreements on nuclear reductions were signed, the Soviet Union naturally counted on its own resources. But as things stand now, such an approach would be unrealistic. The process could be speeded up by the aid worth $400 million already allocated by the American Congress and American technical assistance. True, some of the Soviet generals find it hard to part with the old stereotypes and continue to believe that the joint work could disclose for the Americans the Soviet nuclear secrets. But interaction is unavoidable in such a complex work.

Let's not foresee the results of the American delegation's visit to the Soviet Union. What matters here most is that the process of abolishing nuclear weapons started with the dismantling of American and Soviet medium and short range nuclear missiles would continue. This is in the interests of both the United States and the Commonwealth of Independent States that has emerged on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

Shevardnadze, Kissinger Discuss CIS Future

OW1401003292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1800 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday [12 January] Eduard Shevardnadze received former U.S. State Secretary Henry Kissinger and U.S. Ambassador Robert Strauss at his Moscow apartment. Their lengthy and cordial talk covered a number of issues connected with ethnic conflicts and ways to settle them. Another subject was whether the Commonwealth of Independent States was a viable entity and what problems it was facing.

Kissinger wondered why in August 1991 the world and the democratic forces of the former USSR had been outraged by Mikhail Gorbachev's anticonstitutional ouster, but the dissolution of the USSR and Gorbachev's de facto ouster in December 1991 were virtually ignored.

Kissinger also claimed that a number of U.S. politicians found themselves ill-prepared to lose "the enemy" in the person of the former Soviet Union—nor were some of the leaders in the former Soviet republics. [sentence as received] This, in Kissinger's opinion, explains a number of difficulties in relations between the Commonwealth countries.

The two former ministers agreed that the Commonwealth presidents did not foresee the scope of the problems they would be up against. Still, mutual understanding and the joint resolution of disputes are still a possibility.

Shevardnadze and Kissinger agreed to hold, before September 1992, a conference to settle ethnic conflicts on the territory of the former USSR. At present the parties are working jointly to develop alternative political guidelines on the further development of bilateral relations.

Shaposhnikov Receives Kissinger

OW1301224492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [13 January] morning, Commander in Chief of the Commonwealth armed forces, Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, received the prominent American politician, former U.S. Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger.

Mr. Shaposhnikov assured Mr. Kissinger that the former Union's tactical and strategic forces would remain under centralized control and said that all of the Commonwealth member states had confirmed their adherence to the former Union's commitments concerning the reduction and limitation of conventional and nuclear armaments.

He noted that the current level of relations between the U.S. and the Commonwealth met both sides' interests and was a factor of international stability.

Kalugin on KGB 'Access' to POWs in Vietnam

LD1301180292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1420 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Excerpts] [Correspondent Andrey Alakhverdov] A few days ago, almost the entire world was stirred by General Kalugin's statement that during the 1970's KGB bodies interrogated U.S. prisoners of war in Vietnam and by his remarks concerning whether there could still be American prisoners in our country. Several television companies broadcast interviews with the retired Chekist, but only reports of the ex-general's words reached his homeland. I agree that live appearances are not always necessary, but sometimes issues are so important that they cause official reaction from governments. Here, too, the governments and official organizations of several countries, including Russia, reacted to Kalugin's words. The problem itself is, generally speaking, an unexpected one and ought to be investigated, especially if one bears in mind that Oleg Kalugin hides from no one and willingly replies to journalists' questions. Therefore, I asked him to voice his point of view without intermediaries, and he immediately and courteously agreed.

[Begin recording] [Kalugin] [passage omitted] Just before the New Year, a U.S. journalist again put this question to me and once again I repeated what I had said earlier; namely, that in the 1970's KGB officials subordinate to me used to go to Hanoi to interrogate captured U.S. servicemen. The first time, about 1973-74, the Vietnamese did not give us access to those Americans. Our relations at that time were not that good. We did not get any sensible information then and it seemed as though that was the end of that. However, several years later, during a second, repeat visit by Colonel Oleg Nichiporenko, one of my officials, we did get such access to the Americans. On that occasion several persons were interrogated from a selection offered by the Vietnamese themselves.

[Alakhverdov] How many approximately?

[Kalugin] Well, at any rate, I recall three persons and I even asked Nichiporenko because this all happened quite a long time ago and I could not remember the exact year. I said either 1976 or 1978. I later corrected this to 1978 because in that year an official agreement was signed on cooperation between the Vietnamese internal affairs ministry and the Soviet KGB. Then, naturally, they granted us the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with everything they had. [passage omitted]

No one from the KGB committed any crime here. It was the "cold war." We interrogated them or cross-examined them, what you will, without using any prejudicial means. We merely tried to persuade them, so to speak, to cooperate with us and talk to us.

It has already been admitted officially by KGB intelligence that one American from the CIA was interrogated. Nichiporenko has admitted today on American television that he did indeed interrogate one American—this was allegedly in 1973 or 1974. In actual fact, he did not interrogate anyone then because the Vietnamese did not give us access to those people. They gave us access at a much later stage, which is what I have asserted and assert now. This whole episode ended by 1978 and, as far as I know, the Americans who were captured in Vietnam returned home. As far as I know, though the Vietnamese know better, no one is left there. It is another matter that the Vietnamese are now even denying the very fact that there was any contact, but this is stupid because the Soviet side has already admitted officially that there was a one time contact. Ultimately, the most important thing is that people in the United States should know that there have been no American prisoners of war in the Soviet Union. [passage omitted: Kalugin convinced that no Americans captured during World War II remain in USSR, stresses Brezhnev policy of peaceful coexistence with United States, rules out possibility of Soviets holding Americans prisoner against their will after 1984]

[Alakhverdov] From everything you have said one can conclude that the 20,000 persons about whom the U.S. Congress is requesting information all in all represent a figure which does not actually exist.

[Kalugin] Absolutely right. I think that this is something quite unrealistic and in my view it is simply quite ludicrous to make claims of us on this count. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Joint Commission To Probe Reports

PM1401112692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Untitled report from IZVESTIYA, TASS, RIA, POSTFACTUM, AP column]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet and the U.S. Congress are to set up a joint commission to investigate reports that the Russian side has information on American prisoners of war taken during the wars in Korea and Vietnam.

This accord was reached at a meeting between Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Ambassador to Russia Robert Strauss.

U.S. Welcomes Black Sea Fleet Agreements

LD1401094392 Moscow TASS in English 0753 GMT 14 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Korolev]

[Text] Washington January 14 TASS—The U.S. Administration welcomed the agreements reached by Russia and Ukraine as regards the Black Sea Fleet.

Asked by TASS to comment on the results of the talks between the two countries' military experts held in Kiev, U.S. State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States was satisfied that the sides reached a preliminary agreement as regards the fleet's status. She said the United States had already stated that the conflict over this issue did not meet anybody's interests and would only divert the two states from the real need to push forward the required economic and political reforms.

Delegations Question CIS Nuclear Security

PM1301141992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Aleksandr Krivopalov and Aleksandr Sychev report: "U.S. Secretary of Defense Urges West To Prepare 'For Any Surprises' in the Commonwealth of Independent States"]

[Text] The future of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal seems more and more vague. Foreign delegations are visiting the now independent states that have emerged in the place of the USSR one after the other in an attempt to clarify their view of events taking place in our country and forecast their possible outcome.

B. Wilz, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union defense policy working group in the FRG Bundestag, has had a series of meetings in Minsk and Moscow. British Foreign Secretary D. Hurd will come to Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine in the second half of January. In the next few days a delegation of U.S. experts headed by Under Secretary of State R. Bartholomew will take the same route plus Belarus. U.S. and British Secretaries of Defense R. Cheney and T. King discussed the problems of Soviet nuclear weapons in London. R. Cheney's current trip to Europe, which is viewed as preparation for late January's UN Security Council summit meeting convened on the initiative of Britain's prime minister, will continue in Bonn.

One would have thought that there should not be any particular reason for concern. The Commonwealth states have agreed to preserve the unity of the strategic forces, given guarantees that they will ensure the safekeeping of mass-destruction weapons, and expressed willingness to unswervingly observe all the USSR's international commitments, and some states have made the attainment of nuclear-free status a top-priority task for their national security policy.

Nonetheless, fear of Soviet military might which had slackened off over the last few years has once again shown a tendency to increase. Without doubt, the guarantees given by the Commonwealth's independent states are impressive and the West is trying not to cast doubt on them. But the presence of major destabilizing factors within the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] and the states that form it, together with ill-advised actions by the national governments, do not give politicians the right to rule out even the worst-case scenarios.

It is not surprising that the announcement that the Ukrainian authorities have decided to separate the troops stationed on their territory from the operational command and warning system used to control the armed forces was viewed with unconcealed concern at the meeting in London between the U.S. and British secretaries of defense. In R. Cheney's opinion, even the dispute over control of the Black Sea Fleet may at some stage develop into a conflict due to control of some strategic arms systems. Western defense ministers, R. Cheney concluded, must prepare "for any surprises."

The West thinks that there is a particular threat from tactical nuclear arms which may quite well enable the former Soviet republics to acquire the freely convertible currency they so badly need. Moreover, this category of arms is a tempting catch for terrorists.

What is more, according to some estimates, there are roughly 5,000 highly skilled specialists within the CIS with the knowledge needed to develop nuclear weapons. Social and economic disorganization may make many of them accept the alluring offers of work in their specialized sphere in countries like Iran, Libya, and North Korea.

Fissionable materials and nuclear technology are a profitable class of exports. It is known that last October the Italian police arrested a Swiss businessman trying to sell 4 grams of plutonium on the Italian market. Three Hungarians and an Austrian were recently arrested in Milan for shipping containers of superconductive crystals that specialists claim can be used to produce nuclear weapons. In both cases investigators suspect that the manufacturers are to be found on the territory of the former USSR.

"I am not sure that this process can be effectively stopped. Tomorrow there may be far more countries with nuclear weapons in the world than today," R. Cheney said in London during an interview with journalists. "Nonetheless something must be done."

We learned that, by way of preventive measures, the London meeting discussed the need to continue the work of creating an ABM defense system, the introduction of additional tough measures for international verification of nuclear nonproliferation, and aid for the CIS in the planned dismantling and destruction of missiles and the reliable storage of warheads removed from them. They also discussed the possibility of implementing programs to "provide Soviet scientists with material security," creating jobs for them, and funding future research work.

The group of experts led by R. Bartholomew, to whose mission Washington attaches particular significance, is studying all these problems. The delegation members, according to reports, will also try to clear up the situation regarding tactical nuclear weapons that are often moved from place to place due to interethnic conflicts that flare up in the Commonwealth states.

Problems of the Army as a whole and of nuclear weapons in the CIS in particular must be resolved by peaceful means alone, with the utmost caution and political perspicacity. The West, B. Wilz said at a Moscow press conference, is extremely interested in settling the matter and is ready to provide the requisite assistance.

Commonwealth

Draft Treaty on 'Economic Commonwealth' Given

PM1301141792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Undated "Draft Treaty on Instituting International Economic Commonwealth (IEC)" submitted by IEC Provisional Secretariat]

[Text] States, republics (regions), and organizations of business circles (producers of goods and services), hereinafter called the "contracting parties,"

proceeding from commitment to the principles of state sovereignty, good-neighborliness, and cooperation,

acknowledging interest in a common economic area,

confirming their commitment to the principle of the worldwide division of labor and the transnational application of capital,

desiring to build their socioeconomic relations while fully respecting generally recognized norms of international law,

and acknowledging absolute respect for human rights and freedoms as a decisive factor in social development, have agreed as follows:

Article 1. The International Economic Commonwealth

The International Economic Commonwealth [Sodruzhestvo] (IEC) shall be instituted as an international organization by this present.

Article 2. Aims and Tasks

1. Forming a common economic area on the basis of market relations and the free movement of labor, goods, services, and capital.

2. Creating new financial and economic structures.

3. Assisting in improving currency, financial tax regulation, and also social development, scientific and technical cooperation, and the use of nature.

4. Coordinating the development of the trade and economic links of the Commonwealth members, including those with third countries.

5. Assisting the creation and functioning of free economic zones, and also other forms of open economy.

6. Elaborating coordinated legal basic principles for the functioning of the common economic area.

7. Assisting standardization and the certification of industrial output and goods.

8. Cooperating in the legal protection of intellectual property.

9. Assisting the development of a common information area.

10. Implementing joint projects in agriculture, industry, the power industry, transportation, communications, science, education, culture, health care, and ecology.

11. Assisting the development of the system of the world economy.

Article 3. Organs and Institutions of the International Economic Commonwealth

In order to implement the aims and tasks set out in Article 2 of the present treaty, the following shall be instituted:

IEC main organs:

—IEC Assembly;

—IEC Council;

—IEC Secretariat;

—Economic Commission;

—Control Commission;

—IEC Chamber of Arbitration.

Auxiliary organs—commissions, committees, working groups, and other groups for areas of activity—shall be set up as necessary and shall operate in accordance with the statutes on them approved by the IEC main organs.

IEC institutions:

—International Trade and Economic Center (IEC ITEC);

—International Bank (IEC Bank);

—International Universal Exchange (IUE);

—International Information Agency (MIA);

—IEC Television and Radio Company.

All IEC organs and institutions shall be set up on the basis of the principle that its members have equal rights.

Article 4. The IEC Assembly

The IEC Assembly shall be the IEC's highest organ and consist of delegations from the contracting parties. The delegations shall include one representative each from the parliament, the government, and organizations of business circles and central social organizations (associations).

The delegations may include the requisite number of advisers and experts.

The Assembly shall meet at least once per year.

The Assembly shall adopt decisions on basic questions of IEC policy.

At its first session the Assembly shall adopt its own rules of procedure and the IEC Statutes.

Article 5. The IEC Council

The IEC Council shall be the IEC's standing executive organ. The Council shall be formed on a bicameral basis: a House of Representatives of the Contracting Parties' Governments and a House of Representatives of Organizations of Business Circles.

The Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 6. The IEC Secretariat

The Secretariat shall be the IEC's administrative organ carrying out day-to-day IEC activity. The Secretariat shall be headed by a general secretary elected by the Assembly for a four-year term.

The statute on the Secretariat shall be adopted by the IEC Assembly.

Article 7. The IEC General Secretary

The general secretary shall be the IEC's main administrative official and shall act in this capacity at all sessions of the IEC's standing organs.

The procedure for the election, the functions, and the competence of the IEC general secretary shall be defined by the IEC Assembly.

The contracting parties shall pledge to respect the strictly international character of the general secretary and staff and not to attempt to influence them contrary to the interests of the Commonwealth.

Article 8. The IEC Economic Commission (IEC EC)

The IEC Economic Commission shall elaborate programs of economic activity, analyze the economic policy of the IEC and its members, and adopt recommendations for the IEC's leading and working organs. The commission's rules of procedure shall be approved by the IEC Council.

Article 9. The IEC Control Commission (IEC CC)

The IEC Control Commission shall monitor the expenditure of IEC financial resources and compliance with the budget. The IEC CC shall prepare an annual report for the IEC Assembly. In its work the commission shall be guided by the statute on it approved by the IEC Assembly.

Article 10. The IEC Chamber of Arbitration

The Chamber of Arbitration shall be elected from members of the contracting parties at the IEC Assembly, with one member from each party. Anyone with the necessary professional and personal business qualities and independent status may be a member of the Chamber of Arbitration.

The Chamber of Arbitration shall examine disputes about economic and juridical questions that may arise in the process of the IEC's activity. Decisions of the Chamber of Arbitration shall be binding on disputing parties who have agreed to its jurisdiction.

The rules of procedure for the Chamber of Arbitration shall be elaborated by the IEC Council and, at its submission, approved by the IEC Assembly.

Article 11. The International Trade and Economic Center (ITEC)

The IEC ITEC shall be the IEC headquarters, whose location shall be the city of Moscow, unless otherwise agreed.

The IEC ITEC shall be the residence of representatives of the contracting parties and the center for holding events by IEC organs and institutions and also for the business operations of its members.

On the basis of agreement between the Commonwealth members and the host state, the ITEC shall possess immunity as an international organization.

The legal status of the IEC headquarters and its organs, institutions, and personnel will be defined by a special agreement among the contracting parties.

Article 12. The International Bank

The IEC Bank shall be the IEC's credit and payment [kreditno-raschetnyy] institution, including in foreign economic activity, ensuring the financing of and financial control over programs and projects within the IEC framework. The Commonwealth Bank shall take into account the correlation between the exchange rates of the IEC members' currencies.

The IEC Bank's statutes shall be approved by the IEC Assembly.

Article 13. The International Universal Exchange

The IEC IUE shall ensure the conclusion of deals between legal and physical persons under the jurisdiction of the contracting parties, and also with other persons cooperating with the IEC. The IUE shall assist the formation of and collaboration between exchange structures, and also the uniform application of the rules of exchange activity of the Commonwealth members.

The IUE's statutes shall be approved by the IEC Assembly.

Article 14. The International Information Agency (MIA)

The IEC MIA shall gather, systematize, and disseminate information about the activity of the IEC and business structures, and also other information necessary for implementation of the IEC's aims and tasks.

The statute on the MIA shall be approved by the IEC Council.

Article 15. The IEC Television and Radio Company (IEC TRC)

The IEC TRC shall carry out television and radio broadcasting in the interests of the Commonwealth members and other legal and physical persons under the jurisdiction of the IEC, in implementation of the latter's aims and tasks.

Article 16. Other IEC Organs and Institutions

Other organs and institutions necessary in order to achieve the IEC's aims and tasks may be created by decision of the IEC Assembly.

Article 17. The IEC's Funds, Targeted Programs, and Business Projects

Funds, programs, and business projects may be created in accordance with the IEC's aims and tasks on the basis of IEC Council resolutions. Legal and physical persons under the jurisdiction of the contracting parties, and also other legal and physical persons may take part in funds, programs, and business projects. The activity of funds and the implementation of programs and projects for business cooperation shall be based on their statutes.

Article 18. The IEC Budget

The IEC budget shall be formed from shared contributions from the contracting parties and also the activity of business structures, and shall constitute the Commonwealth's incorporation capital, which shall be the guarantee in relations between its members and outside economic partners. The scale of contributions shall be adopted by the IEC Assembly. The shared contributions of the contracting partners shall be paid into the IEC Bank.

Article 19. The Depositary

The depositary of the present treaty shall be the IEC Secretariat, which shall send certified copies of the treaty to all its parties.

Article 20. Entry Into Force

The present treaty shall be open for signature for one year from the day of its adoption.

The present treaty shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the day when the third instrument of ratification is deposited with the depositary.

After entry into force the treaty shall be open to accession by any party consonant with the status of subject of the treaty.

For contracting parties who have signed the treaty but have not ratified it prior to entry into force, it shall enter into force on the day of their deposit of an instrument of ratification with the depositary.

The present agreement is of unlimited duration.

Article 21. Withdrawal From the Treaty

Any contracting party may withdraw from the present treaty by sending appropriate notification to the depositary. Withdrawal shall enter into force six months after receipt of the aforementioned notification by the depositary. The depositary shall immediately inform all contracting parties of the receipt of such notification.

Withdrawal from the treaty shall not release its parties from implementing all property commitments that arose for the party withdrawing from the treaty consequent upon agreements concluded in development of the present treaty.

Article 22. Additions and Amendments to the Treaty

Additions and amendments may be made to the present treaty at the IEC Assembly via decisionmaking on the basis of consensus. [Text of treaty ends]

In submitting the new, reworked [dorabotannyy] version of the treaty, the IEC Provisional Secretariat calls on the independent states' parliaments and governments, and also business and social circles, to support the initiative to create the Economic Commonwealth. Please send comments and proposals and applications to take part in the Constituent Conference for the Creation of the IEC, planned for February 1992, to the following address: "Soyuz-Vozrozhdeniye" ["Union-Revival"] Corporation, 7 Chistyy Street, 119034 Moscow.

An account has been opened for the IEC Provisional Secretariat—No 1700629 at the Odintsovskiy APB [Agro-Industrial Bank], Odintsovskiy Branch of the "Vozrozhdeniye" MAKB [International Joint-Stock Commercial Bank], routing number 211231.

Baltics

Council's Appeal on Troop Withdrawal Published

PM1401090392 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 7 Jan 92 p 1

[Address to the heads of states of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the immediate and complete withdrawal of the former Soviet Union's Armed Forces from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia signed by A. Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Republic Supreme Council; V. Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Council; and A. Ruutel, chairman of the Estonian Republic Supreme Council; and dated Jurmala, 5 January 1992]

[Text] The Baltic States Council declares that the Armed Forces of the former USSR are still illegally present on the territory of the independent states of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia despite the Baltic States' repeated demands for the withdrawal of those troops from their territory. This is incompatible with international law, it is a breach of the state sovereignty of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, and does not help to strengthen confidence in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States].

The Baltic States Council, bearing in mind the formation of the CIS and emphasizing that the leadership of the former Soviet Union has given no reply to the Baltic States Council's Statement of 5 October 1991 regarding the immediate withdrawal of the USSR troops from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia and especially regarding their withdrawal from the capitals of the Baltic States, appeals to the CIS countries:

—to immediately begin withdrawing the troops from Riga, Vilnius, and Tallinn and from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia as a whole;

—as soon as possible to recall from Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian territory their citizens serving in the Armed Forces of the former USSR and not to allow their citizens to be sent to do military service on the Baltic states' territory;

—to leave weapons, equipment, and combat hardware for the creation of the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian defense forces in view of the fact that Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian military property was seized in 1940;

—not to introduce at their own discretion new contingents of troops of the former Soviet Union into the Baltic states' territory.

[Signed] A. Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Republic Supreme Council
V. Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Council
A. Ruutel, chairman of the Estonian Republic Supreme Council.
[Dated] Jurmala, 5 January 1992.

Central Asia

Muslim Board Head Dismissed, Babakhan Returns

PM1001163592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 2

[Report by D. Gazabov: "Muftis Change, Belief Remains the Same"]

[Text] Tashkent—The head of the Muslim Board of Central Asia in Tashkent has changed.

Believers opposed to Mufti Muhamed-Sadiq Muhamed-Yusuf began to assemble in the Tillya-Shaykh central mosque from early morning. Their demands—the immediate resignation of the current head of muslims. In the afternoon passions became heated, and militia subunits began to appear around Khastemom Square.

The Council of Imams held a session, which adopted the decision to dismiss Muhamed-Sadiq Muhamed-Yusuf. The former head of Muslims, Shamsuddin Babakhan, was elected in his place.

Let us recall that Shamsuddin Babakhan was dismissed three years ago [as published] as a result of concerted pressure by supporters of the present mufti. Now the roles have changed, and the former mufti has had his revenge.

Military

Comparison of Military Reform Plans Charted

92UM0321A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Dec 91 pp 1-2

[Article by Pavel Felgengauer: "How To Divide the Army—Honestly or Justly?: The Soviet Army Is Being Transformed into the Allied Armed Forces of the Commonwealth"]

[Text]

The Army

When Yeltsin, Kravchuk, and Shushkevich agreed at Belovezhskaya Pushcha on December 8 on how to first disband the USSR and then take apart the vestiges of the inheritance, they did not begin to consult either with President Gorbachev, Nazarbayev, or moreover, with Bush. The only person they called was USSR Minister of Defense Marshal of Aviation Shaposhnikov. Republic leaders could never have acted so decisively without a mutual understanding with the highest military leadership. But then again, the preliminary agreement was, we need to assume, reached beforehand, most likely during Marshal Shaposhnikov's meeting with President Yeltsin on December 3, 1991.

We have every reason to believe that it was the then minister of defense who finally coordinated with the Russian president personnel changes in key leading posts in the Army and, first of all, the retirement of General of the Army Lobov who was removed from his post as chief of the General Staff on the morning of December 7. Other rearrangements were also made in expectation of inevitable changes: the elimination of the USSR Ministry of Defense in its present form and the creation of the new Commonwealth military structure where, instead of the previous, purely formal supreme commander—USSR President Gorbachev—a quite real commander in chief of the "Combined Armed Forces" from the military will appear (so far, the only real contender for this post is Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov).

On December 11, during an expanded session at the Ministry of Defense, President Gorbachev called on the military leaders to "save the Union" but he encountered little understanding or sympathy among them. In the corridors, they joked maliciously: he should have issued those appeals, they said, on August 19—then things would have been worked out. In December 1991, the military leadership had quite different problems: how to adapt to the new state (more accurately, non-state) structure and to the newly-emerged CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States].

By the time of the conference at Alma-Ata on December 21, when the republics of Central Asia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Moldova had joined the CIS, the Ministry of Defense had prepared and submitted a package of documents on the new Armed Forces structure (See Diagram 1). However, the republics did not adopt this proposal (although they anticipated some sort of independent armed forces for Ukraine). Besides, an alternative draft was submitted from the Committee for Military Reform (Chairman—General of the Army Konstantin Kobets), which received serious support in the republic delegations (see Diagram 2).

After Alma-Ata, the agreements were continued and a compromise plan for the transition period was drawn up during the conference with the republic ministers of defense in Moscow on December 26-27: An Agreement on Defense Issues Among the CIS Member States. (Elements from the drafts of both the Committee on Military Reform and the Ministry of Defense were utilized in the agreement reached). Representatives from all CIS member states agreed that an adequately lengthy transition period was needed for a relatively peaceful transformation of the armed forces of the former USSR.

The Agreement on the Status of the Allied Armed Forces on the territory of the Commonwealth Member States was approved (without any special friction) (troops will not interfere in internal matters and servicemen have been directed "not to participate in any political activity"; separate agreements will be concluded on all remaining issues in each specific case). An interim provision on the CIS Council of Ministers of Defense was also approved. The CIS Council of Ministers of Defense will consist of the republic ministers of defense (the chairmen of the appropriate state committees) and also the combined Armed Forces commander in chief and the combined Armed Forces chief of the General Staff. The Council of Ministers of Defense must coordinate the policies of the individual independent states on issues of military policy and also ensure civilian control over the Army that was left and still exists when the state that created it at one time already no longer exists. The Council of Ministers of Defense will convene in turn in the capitals of all of the independent states and a representative of the state that hosts the Council of Ministers of Defense at that time will be the chairman. Any decisions will be adopted by the Council of Ministers of Defense only unanimously and at the same time they will be recommendatory in nature.

They have not yet managed to find a streamlined formula for an interim compromise on more substantive issues. During the session, it was ascertained that although all "Commonwealth member states confirm their legal right to establish their own armed forces" (Article 6 of the agreement), so far only three states are actually insisting on the immediate establishment of their own army: Ukraine, Moldova, and Azerbaijan. The remaining republics have agreed to transfer the share in the common inheritance owed to them to the allied command since they understand very well that they (with the exception of Russia) have neither the economic nor financial resources even to simply maintain those modern Armed Forces that are deployed on their territory today. Already not talking about conducting further rational military structural development.

Thus, the Army will still be divided, but into quite unequal shares:—into the combined Armed Forces which in turn consist of the "Strategic Forces"—"armies, division-sized and smaller units, institutions, institutes, strategic and operational reconnaissance, the RVSN (Strategic Missile Troops), the Air Forces, Navy, Air Defense Troops, Airborne Troops," and so forth; and also "Combined General Purpose Armed Forces"—"armies, division-sized and smaller units, institutions, institutes, and other military facilities that are located on the territories of the Commonwealth member states concerned that are not part of the strategic forces of the independent state (the list for each Commonwealth participant is defined by a separate protocol)"; or,

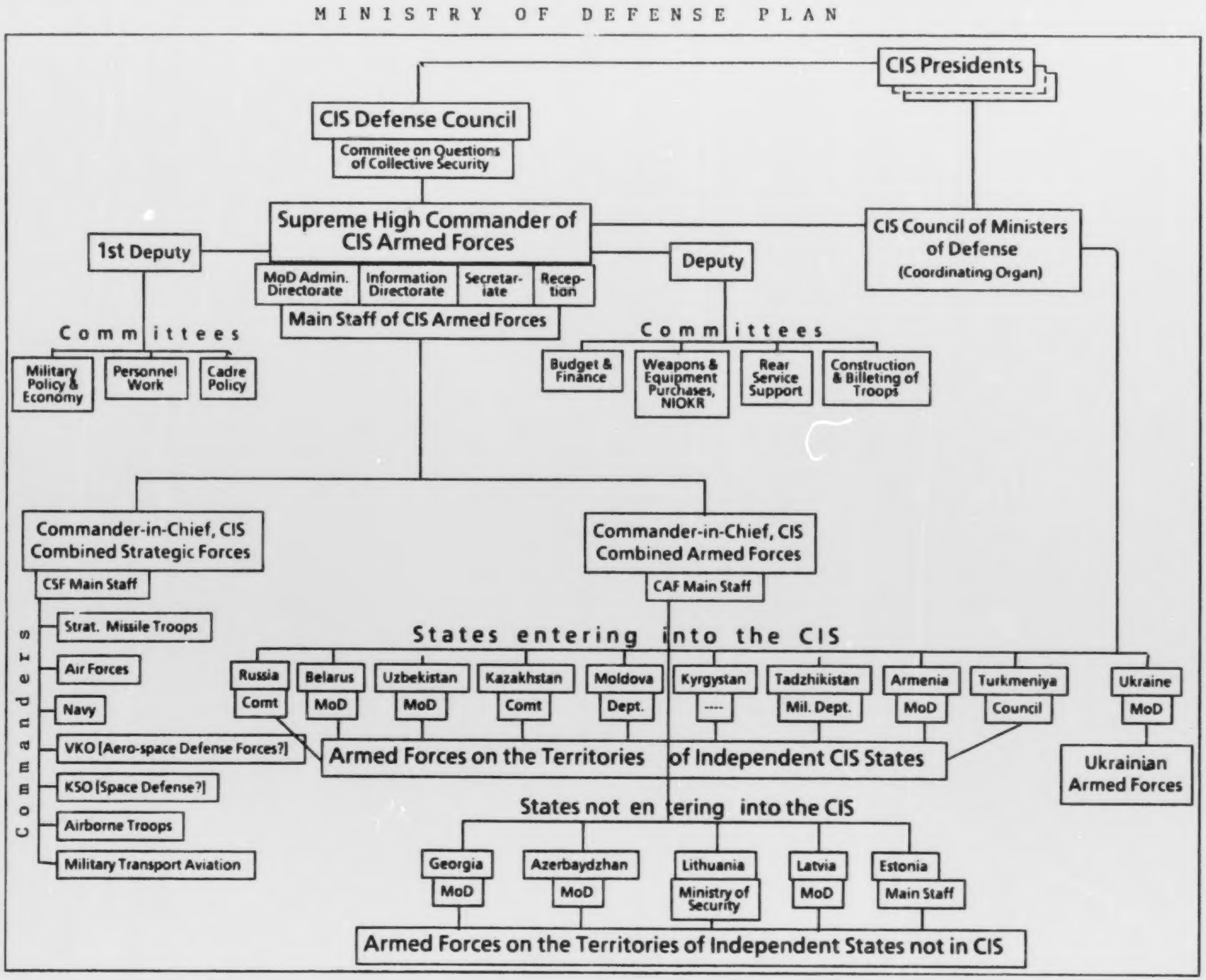
—into some independent states' own armed forces.

If a large number of the states that have proclaimed their independence see the need and advisability of concluding a defensive alliance (they actually were ready to sign a treaty on the CIS at Novo-Ogarevo), the current Ukrainian leadership does not intend to participate in military alliances and the Agreement on Defense Issues must cease to be in force with regard to Ukraine by the end of 1994 (the Ukrainian delegation's amendments to Articles 4 and 9).

There is every reason to assume that verbal formulas for an interim compromise on defense issues will be found in Minsk on December 30. In any case, the majority of the participants in the negotiating process are expressing themselves with sufficient optimism. General of the Army Kobets, while answering a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent's questions, stated: "There are no fundamental differences between Russia and Ukraine on defense issues. I think that the agreement will be adopted in Minsk."

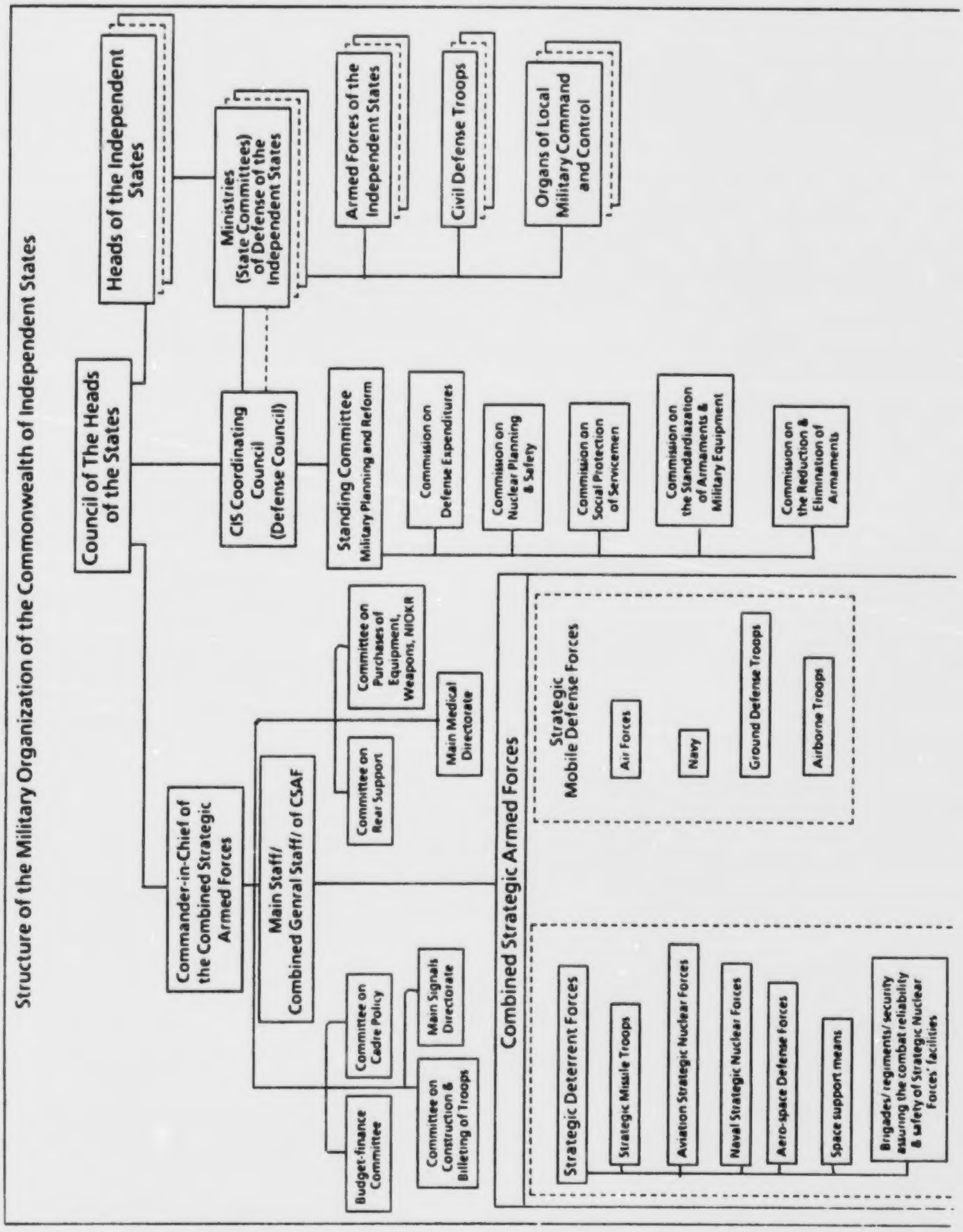
But after the solemn signing, the number of problems will not diminish. Specifically, one more coordinated document has been prepared for the Minsk meeting: the resolution on the oath. The resolution's essence is reduced to the fact that servicemen will take an oath to that independent state of which they consider themselves to be a citizen (in each case, individually and regardless of the location where they are performing their duties at the present time). This interpretation of

Diagram 1


MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PLAN
CIS Presidents
CIS Defense Council
Commitee on Questions of Collective Security
Supreme High Commander of CIS Armed Forces
CIS Council of Ministers of Defense (Coordinating Organ)
1st Deputy
MoD Admin. Directorate
Information Directorate
Secretariate
Reception
Main Staff of CIS Armed Forces
Deputy
Committees
Military Policy & Economy
Personnel Work
Cadre Policy
Committees
Budget & Finance
Weapons & Equipment Purchases, NIOKR
Rear Service Support
Construction & Billeting of Troops
Commander-in-Chief, CIS Combined Strategic Forces
CSF Main Staff
Commander-in-Chief, CIS Combined Armed Forces
CAF Main Staff
Commanders
Strat. Missile Troops
Air Forces
Navy
VKO [Aero-space Defense Forces?]
KSO [Space Defense?]
Airborne Troops
Military Transport Aviation
States entering into the CIS
Russia
Comt
Belarus
MoD
Uzbekistan
MoD
Kazakhstan
Comt
Moldova
Dept.
Kyrgystan

Tadzhikistan
Mil. Dept.
Armenia
MoD
Turkmeniya
Council
Ukraine
MoD
Ukrainian Armed Forces
Armed Forces on the Territories of Independent CIS States
States not entering into the CIS
Georgia
MoD
Azerbaydzhan
MoD
Lithuania
Ministry of Security
Latvia
MoD
Estonia
Main Staff
Armed Forces on the Territories of Independent States not in CIS

Diagram 2



KOBETS PLAN

Structure of the Military Organization of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Council of The Heads of the States
Heads of the Independent States
Ministries (State Committees) of Defense of the Independent States
Armed Forces of the Independent States
Civil Defense Troops
Organs of Local Military Command and Control
CIS Coordinating Council (Defense Council)
Standing Committee
Military Planning and Reform
Commission on Defense Expenditures
Commission on Nuclear Planning & Safety
Commission on Social Protection of Servicemen
Commission on the Standardiazation of Armaments & Military Equipment
Commission on the Reduction & Elimination of Armaments
Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Strategic Armed Forces
Main Staff/ Combined Genral Staff/ of CSAF
Committee on Purchases of Equipment, Weapons, NIOKR
Committee on Rear Support
Main Medical Directorate
Committee on Cadre Policy
Main Signals Directorate
Budget-finance Committee
Committee on Construction & Billeting of Troops
Combined Strategic Armed Forces
Strategic Mobile Defense Forces
Air Forces
Navy
Ground Defense Troops
Airborne Troops
Strategic Deterrent Forces
Strategic Missile Troops
Aviation Strategic Nuclear Forces
Naval Strategic Nuclear Forces
Aero-space Defense Forces
Space support means
Brigades/regiments/security assuring the combat reliability & safety of Strategic Nuclear Forces' facilities

the concept of the military oath caused the well-known interference in the ranks of the Ukrainian delegation, according to eyewitness testimony; however, Stepan Khmar, the ancient fighter for human rights and for an independent Ukraine (whom they sent to the negotiations in Moscow as a sort of "commissar for nezalezhnost [independence]" under Minister of Defense General Konstantin Morozov), obviously was at a loss as how to counter this proposal that is democratic to the extreme.

This political burlesque will certainly disrupt to some degree the campaign planned by the Ukrainian authorities to compel servicemen deployed in Ukraine to take the new oath "for loyalty to the Ukrainian people." At the same time, it is easy to imagine how difficult it will be for Marshal Shaposhnikov to command the remaining Army (combined Armed Forces), now officially totally composed of different nationalities, when he achieves what he is seeking and has been confirmed as its commander in chief.

Black Sea Fleet Tactical Capabilities Profiled

PM1301152192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Report over video; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Off-screen announcer] The Black Sea Fleet consists of 45 large surface ships, 28 submarines, more than 300 small and medium-sized ships, 151 aircraft, and 85 carrier-borne helicopters. It is true that it does not comprise strategic weapons. The ships of this fleet are armed with tactical nuclear missiles. Under the Minsk agreements, the Black Sea Fleet is subordinated to the Joint Command since it carries out strategic tasks. It is part of the balance of strategic forces in the region. The Fleet's forces and resources are used for service tasks in the Mediterranean.

Further on All-Army Officers' Conference

'Consultative Nature' Emphasized

LD1301180492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The future of our Army continues to be one of the main stories. The apprehension of certain public movements that the all-Army conference of representatives of officers' meetings bears the potential threat of a military coup d'etat has no basis whatever. A TASS correspondent was told this today by Colonel Aleksandr Luvkevich, deputy chairman of the committee of the Armed Forces of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] for work with personnel. He stressed that the status of the forum which will be held in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses on 17 January is of a consultative nature. It will be a kind of sociological research of the opinion of the whole officers corps and an attempt to work out a common viewpoint of military servicemen on critical issues of life and service. Documents adopted at the conference will be in the nature of a recommendation. It is planned that Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov will make the opening speech at the conference.

Not Planning 'Ultimatum'

OW1401023992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The more than 5,000 of commissioned Army, Navy and Air Force officers who will gather in Moscow on January 17 are not going to present the leaders of the Commonwealth states with an ultimatum, said in an interviev with IF [INTERFAX] Colonel Aleksandr Shushkevich, deputy chairman of the personnel committee of the Armed Forces. The military is not going to create an organization not accountable to political leaders, which would pose as an independent political force, emphasized the colonel.

The objective of the conference, to which the heads of the republics, defense ministers and Army commanders have been invited, is to attract the attention of the public to the situation of the army. The organizers demand TV and radio broadcasts of the event.

Staff Expert on Russian-Ukrainian Negotiations

OW1301204192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1800 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By M. Mayorov and I. Porshnev; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An expert from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the former USSR has told our correspondent that the reports to the effect that the division of the Black Sea Fleet is the main issue at the current Russian-Ukrainian negotiations were wrong. He said what was being discussed was the transfer of guard ship units to Ukraine in accordance with a relevant agreement. These vessels will be maintaining order in the ports, fighting contraband, protecting fishing areas etc.

The Black Sea Fleet, the expert thought, should remain what it had been up to now. The only point to be clarified was what flag was to be hoisted on its vessels. It was even possible to use two flags, the Russian and the Ukrainian one. This was, he said, normal practice when ships were visiting foreign ports.

The oath issue would, in his opinion, be resolved after the all-Army officers' meeting in Moscow scheduled for January 17.

Oath-Taking Process To Be Completed by 20 Jan

92UM0327A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Skachko: "Commonwealth States Continue To Divide the Army: Argument Over Black Sea Fleet Proves There Is Still a Long Way to a True Agreement Between Ukraine and Russia"]

[Text] **SERVICEMEN WANT SOCIAL GUARANTEES; the republic Ministry of Defense assures that those not taking the oath will not be discriminated against.**

As is known, during the first days of the new year a delegation from the Ministry of Defense of the former USSR, headed by Colonel General Pyankov, visited Ukraine. The visit and the negotiations in Kiev centered on one topic only: which military units and formations stationed in the republic would be included in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] strategic forces under joint command. Ukrainian Minister of Defense Colonel General Konstantin Morozov comments on the results of the negotiations this way: "This issue was the core of everything. Unfortunately, the delegation headed by Col. Gen. Pyankov arrived with a draft document already prepared. A great many units, formations, and organizations that have no relation to the strategic forces were included in the strategic forces. For instance, construction troops, repair plants, rest and recreation facilities, sanitariums, and warehouses that belonged to the former all-Union military department. We have looked attentively at the intended use of each object and have taken a whole number of them off the list. The negotiations in this respect are not completed yet."

Vasiliy Durdinets, chairman of the permanent commission on defense and national security of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, added: "There are no problems that cannot be solved. We will take into account the arguments of all parties to the negotiations and weigh the decision. I would like very much to see that nobody puts all the dots over the "i's" for us in this issue."

Troops stationed in Ukraine have started taking the oath. The first to do so were units and formations that are part of the Ukrainian National Guard. As of 6 January, more than 6,000 servicemen had taken the oath—among them 3,200 officers. The Ukrainian Ministry of Defense is planning to complete the oath- taking process by 20 January.

There have also been instances of refusing to take the oath, but, as was explained to us at the press center of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, these incidents mainly took place among the servicemen who were drafted into active service from other republics. Most likely, they will either serve their term to completion without taking the oath, or will be replaced by Ukrainians. There are very few refusals for purely political reasons—it appears that officers are hoping they will receive additional social protection guarantees.

The Ukrainian Ministry of Defense assures that there will be no discrimination against those not taking the oath.

The most difficult situation revolves around the Black Sea Fleet. According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the fleet includes 45 large surface ships, 28 submarines, more than 300 small and medium-size ships, 151 airplanes, and 85 helicopters. The Black Sea Fleet is currently split precisely on political grounds. Its commander, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, believes that the fleet is strategically important to the entire Commonwealth and should therefore remain under joint command. A certain part of the high and mid-level officer ranks are ready to serve Ukraine—the same as their colleagues from other branches of the Armed forces, but they are also are holding out for social and legal guarantees.

We have learned that on 8 January the Ukrainian parliament and the Ministry of Defense expect a delegation of representatives from the Black Sea Fleet, for the purpose of continuing the negotiations. The Ukrainian side, in justification of its design for the Black Sea Fleet, points out that the republic contributed the lion's share of expenditures for its creation and maintenance; in fact, there is a certain truth to this. Especially if one considers that most ships in the Black Sea Fleet were built in the Nikolayev and Kherson shipyards.

Black Sea Fleet 'Focus of Public Attention'

PM1301132592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 3

["Editorial Viewpoint" article: "For the Moment the Guns Are Silent. It Is the Politicians Who Are Exchanging Shots"]

[Text] The situation associated with the formation of a republic army in Ukraine and with the government's decision to transfer the Black Sea Fleet to its jurisdiction is at the focus of public attention today. Generals and admirals, presidents and leaders of parliaments, and ministers and mayors are assessing it. The tone of the majority of speeches is sharp, exasperated, and angry. One side is deaf to the other. Dubious arguments, dangerous historical analogies, and frightening predictions are coming into fashion. What is the value of certain calculations of the size of the Armed Forces, which tomorrow may come under Ukrainian command, and of their total might. It is clearly not by chance that they have pushed the crushing figures of growth in the cost of living here from the newspapers' front pages. Our attention is being switched from the empty shelves to the color of a flag.

There is no denying that the question of forming individual armies in the Commonwealth's countries, and in particular of the Black Sea Fleet's fate, is very important, and complex. The independent states' heads discussed draft agreements on questions of defense for more than five hours at the last Minsk meeting, but simply failed to reach a compromise. But the "go ahead" for Ukraine acting on its right to form its own army was given there. The date for the beginning of its formation—3 January—was also indicated.

It was assumed that the process would develop gradually, in stages. But Ukraine has gone ahead quickly. It has refused to transfer the Black Sea Fleet to a unified command, explaining its decision by saying that it does not belong to the strategic forces.

It is possible to agree and disagree with the Ukrainian leaderships' actions. But its right, like that of the Commonwealth's other independent states, to its "share" in the Armed Forces of the former USSR is clear. It is another matter what this share should be. Professionals should determine it: both politicians and the military. It is dangerous to organize public discussions on this subject, and to appeal to a sense of national pride, which the "other side" is allegedly offending.

And it is precisely this that we are seeing today. R. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, states: "All the fleets... naturally belong in their entirety to Russia." But why—naturally? Is Russia really the sole heir to that which was commonly owned in the USSR? B. Yeltsin, clearly playing to certain kinds of sentiments, says in Ulyanovsk: "The Black Sea Fleet was, is, and will be Russian," and calls on servicemen not to swear allegiance to Ukraine. St. Petersburg Mayor A. Sobchak goes further. As a punishment for Ukraine's "seizure" of the fleet, he threatens it with the Crimea being returned to Russia. And he regards the Ukrainian leadership's actions themselves as partyocratic and nationalistic.

By now we should have expected a return "shot" from Ukraine. And it did come. Head of the government V. Fokin described the accusations that Ukraine is departing from the Minsk agreements as unfounded and tendentious. And L. Kravchuk expressed his regret for having given his consent to Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov's appointment as commander in chief of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States'] Armed Forces, and promised to rectify this error.

This angry exchange of fire by the politicians understandably does not make the talks about the Black Sea Fleet's fate any easier.

But it was, after all, obvious even when the CIS was being created that the Commonwealth was in for a difficult time. The explosive processes of the former USSR's collapse, including that of its colossal army, cannot be halted instantaneously. In order to stabilize the situation, which in this case is synonymous with the heads of state being able to adopt the agreed decisions, it will be necessary to move forward step by step, displaying patience and self-control. The founders of the Commonwealth themselves have also spoken about this. But they have come up against the first serious crisis situation and have become its hostages.

Radionov Interviewed on Future of Armed Forces

LD1301185992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0608 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Studio interview with Colonel General Yuriy Nikolayevich Rodionov, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States and head of the main directorate for cadres, with unidentified correspondent on 13 January; from the "Utro" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Rodionov] Good morning, dear viewers. I would like to say something about aspects of military policy at the present stage.

The first thing I want to say is that the military authorities should be relieved of the burden of the political negotiations that they have had to conduct for the last few months. As we all know, the first step in this direction has been taken. A delegation from the Russian Government, headed by Sergey Mikhaylovich Shakhray, has held talks in the Ukraine, and these talks have achieved certain results. These talks and consultations should be conducted by the governments of the sovereign states that have emerged out of the former Soviet Union and not by the military authorities. These talks on military issues must be continued until they achieve definite, specific results. Until such time as definite results are achieved, it ought to be possible to keep the Armed Forces under the command, under the control of the council of the heads of the sovereign states. For this period it would be expedient to impose a moratorium on unilateral declarations of ownership over those Armed Forces that are stationed in various sovereign states.

[Correspondent] The army must be a single entity.

[Rodionov] The army must be a single entity. But, in the sense that the army—if one can put it this way—if some state inherits property situated on its territory—in particular, industry and means of communication, power industry—with certain limitations and alterations, then to divide the Armed Forces on a territorial principle, that what's on my territory is mine—well, that's an unacceptable option. As we know, complex processes now stand in the way of declaring oneself the owner of the Armed Forces stationed on one's territory; in our case, the Ukraine. We know that over the last decades the main strategic direction has been the West, and all the forces were concentrated on the territory of the group of troops situated in the countries of the Warsaw Pact and, naturally, on the territory of Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltic region. In other words, the whole Soviet people, all our taxpayers, were giving up resources and money so that we could have the best equipment in the main area, so that there was enough of it to repel any aggression. Now Ukraine is declaring that what is on its territory is its property. In effect it is reaching into the pockets of the taxpayer from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia, and what is now happening in Ukraine seems to me to be this— Ukraine is saying: All this is ours. However, has Ukraine contributed enough money to the Armed Forces, to defense, to be able to claim as its own that part of the Armed Forces that is on its territory? The fact is that I think the best solution would be if talks were held at the level of heads of state and foreign ministries on defense processes. The defense contribution of each of the sovereign states could be determined and they could each form their own armed forces on the basis of this.

[Correspondent] Proportionally, in other words.

[Rodionov] Proportionally, of course. If some sovereign state wants to take unto itself more armed forces that it has contributed, it must compensate the other sovereign states for this. For example, you could arrive at a paradox: Take a rayon—let's say for the sake of argument Krasnoarmeyskiy rayon, Krasnoznamennaya oblast. This rayon has, say, 1,000 inhabitants on its territory. A division is stationed on this rayon's territory. It claims that division as its property. It happens to have enough civilian forces to set up cordons, set up customs points, not to let anyone get away—let everyone through with goods, with freight, as we have now in certain republics. Let them through with any cargo, let out only what they think necessary. That would be a paradox. So they've got to sit down at the conference table. Another example: After all, the Armed Forces are a whole complex, with their own life support, and the functioning of those Armed Forces. We have just one sanatorium—integrated hospital—in the Crimea, for treating and rehabilitating veterans of the Afghan war, where the most complex operations are performed. Now that has become Ukrainian. Yet it was created from the resources of all the Armed Forces.

The only clinic for servicemen's children cerebral palsy is in the Crimea. It will also become the property of Ukraine. The military colleges were not set up to train the Ukrainian Armed Forces. There are over 30 military colleges there. Ukraine will not be able to absorb all these graduates, find suitable jobs for them, and ensure that these officers have work which accords with their qualifications. There are military colleges there that trained specialists with unique skills for the whole of the Armed Forces of the former USSR.

[Correspondent] Throughout its territory.

[Rodionov] Yes. There are very many questions like these. All this must be sorted out at talks at the highest level.

The creation of separate armed forces also creates difficulties in that a political society or community, a community recognized in international law, let's say, has not yet been established on the Soviet Union's territory. Only when that happens can one start talking about the armed forces. At the moment it is difficult for decisions on defensive sufficiency to be taken in each state, precisely because a political union has not yet been established in the former USSR. As we can see, this process is very complex and protracted. Only the first drops—only the first steps have been taken in this direction at the talks that been under way the last few months.

[Correspondent] May I ask you a question?

[Rodionov] Yes.

[Correspondent] Yuriy Nikolayevich, you are deputy commander in chief. What can you say about morale at various levels of the Army? What information do you have? What is the dominant mood at the moment?

[Rodionov] Officers are awaiting political decisions on their future, on social security. You have there an appeal from a meeting of servicemen, officers, belonging to all the military units...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Yes, I wanted to read that out. It's a serious matter.

[Rodionov] Yes.

[Correspondent] We have received an appeal from the unit of space troops. I will read it out, if you don't mind. Officers serving in the space unit, which is part of the strategic containment forces, appeal to—well everyone, clearly—at a difficult time. There is a very important phrase here. We categorically oppose the involvement of the Army in political intrigue, no matter what kind. The Army is entitled to remind people that it can defend itself against arbitrary and lawless behavior. Well, I sense a certain threat there. Does the Army pose a real threat to law and order in this country? Is there a danger of some kind of coup?

[Rodionov] I understand the question. At the moment there is no such threat, but the potential exists. Why? Because the dissatisfaction of officers will increase until laws providing social security for servicemen stationed on the territories of sovereign, independent states are passed there. Their general bewilderment, their questions about the future, will increase. The way in which the word joint is understood, the semantics of the word, imply that this is an alliance of joint armed forces. Each state is entitled to have its own armed forces. But they can, subsequently, amalgamate in an alliance and this alliance will be an alliance of joint armed forces, with some kind of coordinating command. We can split up an agricultural enterprise—it can start seeking partners in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Canada, or the United States. But the Armed Forces are men with weapons. They must be a single force. Their objective and mission is to guard the state borders—or former state borders—of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

[Correspondent] A last question, Yuriy Nikolayevich, as our air time is unfortunately limited: What is your prediction—if, of course, you are able to make one—as to how state defense will develop in the future, if you can say it briefly?

[Rodionov] I think that common sense must prevail and that the heads of the independent states will sit down to talks. In fact, this process is already under way. It must, however, be speeded up because the Armed Forces cannot be treated this way. There has got to be progress in this direction and the Armed Forces can be unified. The main thing is that legislation is developed to give social protection to servicemen so that they can have confidence in the future.

[Correspondent] As the main military leader in the cadres service in the Army, are you not afraid that there will be mass desertions?

[Rodionov] No, I'm not afraid of that, because both the cadre bodies and the commanders at all levels are now taking part in the sensible working out of the legislation I just mentioned. Proposals are coming in constantly from the troops and we are processing them. The main thing now is to put cadres work—questions of officers' service—on a precise legislative basis and work out a system with the officer corps that will ensure precise legality. If time allows, here is one example: We now have legislation on the age limit for active military service. It is possible to serve an extra five years, by permission of the commander. A man who has served the period laid down by law and stays on, over and above the prescribed period, finds himself in an ambiguous position. He can be dismissed at any moment. He can't predict his future life—family, children, etc. It would seem best if for example, 4 January arrives, the man's birthday, he's a colonel and he's 50. He knows 100 years before that—metaphorically speaking—that on 4 January he stops reporting for duty. It's all over for him. He becomes an Army pensioner and can apply his talents in the national economy, in civvy street, as we say. That's easy to predict at once, easy, too, for the cadre bodies to prepare replacements. So it must be clearly laid down by law and everyone must know the law and act only according to the law.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Let me remind viewers that our guest has been the deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the CIS for cadres, or the head of the cadre service, is that right?

[Rodionov] Head of the main directorate.

[Correspondent] Head of the main directorate of cadres of the Soviet Army, Col. Gen. Yuriy Rodionov. Thank you, and I hope all the issues will be resolved by political means.

[Rodionov] I hope so too, and so do all the Armed Forces.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Rodionov] Thank you.

Lobov Suggests Solution for Situation

PM1401101592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Army General Vladimir Lobov, military scientist and people's deputy of the Republic of Kazakhstan (until recently chief of General Staff), by Nikolay Burbyga; place and date not given: "Will There Be a Unified Army on the Territory of the 11 States?"]

[Text] So while politicians are trying to agree what the Army should be like, events in the country have taken their course. In the Transcaucasus desperate officers have begun to send their families to safer places. Alarming reports are continuing to come in from Sevastopol, where sailors of the Black Sea Fleet have refused to swear allegiance to Ukraine's people. And this process seems to be gathering momentum. What exactly lies in store for us? Is there any hope and certainty that events will not develop according to the Yugoslav scenario and that the country once called the USSR will not be dragged into civil war?

Our correspondent discussed this with Army General Vladimir Lobov, military scientist and people's deputy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

[Burbyga] Vladimir Nikolayevich, the Agreement of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] on Armed Forces and Border Troops was signed 30 December 1991 in Minsk, but in literally just a few days the Armed Forces have again become a stumbling block. This time so far as Ukraine and Russia are concerned. Why?

[Lobov] We ought to speak of three meetings, but unfortunately they all essentially failed to make any decisions regarding military issues. The situation is this: The presidents of the independent states announced the abolition of the USSR, that is, of a state that had its own constitution, laws, army, prosecutor's office, courts, and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], in short, everything that is described as superstructure. The CIS was formed in place of the USSR. As is well known, the Commonwealth is not a state. The 11 independent states have no central management structures. In view of this the independent states have nothing to do with the Armed Forces of the former Union.

[Burbyga] Okay: The USSR does not exist. But all servicemen took an oath. Today they are being told to swear allegiance to, say, the people of Ukraine or Azerbaijan...

[Lobov] The Armed Forces are over 4 million men who voluntarily swore allegiance to the USSR. Thus all servicemen, from private to defense minister, took an oath as USSR citizens. So tell me what kind of a situation they are in?...

[Burbyga] In that case to whom are they subordinate today and to whom are they performing their military duty?

[Lobov] They are performing their military duty to our people, to the homeland.

[Burbyga] That may be fine talk, but it remains just talk...

[Lobov] Those who took an oath to the USSR are a small part of that state. And we simply cannot get away from this. This is the whole tragedy of our Army's situation.

[Burbyga] Are there possible ways out of the difficult situation?

[Lobov] Yes. The first is this: A citizen can swear allegiance only to his own state.

The oath is a legal and moral act. It is the basis of the duty and honor of the defender of the homeland. And no politician can deprive a citizen of an oath he has taken, in other words, of his dignity and military honor. They should not even try to do this.

The second way is this. You could not renounce your oath as such, in order not to lose your citizenship. But in this case a contract should be concluded with the serviceman, stipulating all conditions for the period of service.

There could also be a third possibility: asking servicemen to renounce the oath they took earlier, and then to act as they see fit. But I think that this path is the hardest from the moral viewpoint. And it is hardly acceptable today. But I think you cannot forcibly make people swear allegiance to a particular people.

Today the Army is in a tragicomic state: It does not know to whom it is subordinate, to what state it belongs, or what state will support it. And the fact that in the Ukraine people are being forced to swear an oath on pain of eviction is not the fault of but a disaster for the leadership not just of Ukraine but of the entire CIS, which has failed to adopt the necessary balanced political decision. But it is pleasing that Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan are seeking some sort of optimum solution. Elsewhere even that is lacking...

[Burbyga] In your view, what should be done in this situation? Maybe the all-Army officers' assembly to be held 17 January in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses will suggest a solution?

[Lobov] As a military man I am not indifferent to the fate of those who today find themselves in such difficult conditions. Nevertheless, I believe that the question of the Armed Forces should not be resolved via officers' assemblies. They can only rub salt in the wounds. And thereby drag the officer corps, which is already politicized, into a dangerous game. We need a political solution, but one adopted not by the military but by politicians. In my view, the heads of the CIS should immediately sit down at the negotiating table and at long last decide essentially what kind of Armed Forces they need, to whom they will be subordinate, who is going to support, supply, finance, and man them, what task they should fulfill, and to whom they are responsible.

[Burbyga] And what do you think the decision could be, for instance?

[Lobov] The first and in my view most sensible possibility is this: The CIS recognizes the unity of the Armed Forces under the unified control of Russia as successor to the former USSR and as member of the UN Security Council, with a unified task and common quota-based financing.

There is also the following possibility: The CIS deems the Armed Forces on the territory of the independent states to be the property of the independent states and assumes entire responsibility for the subunits and units on their territory.

Finally, there is this: Each CIS state has its own Armed Forces and delegates some of them to resolve common tasks in the CIS—strategic, operational, and tactical tasks. And it is responsible for their manning, armament, and financing, while creating a joint command to lead them. All the rest—such as who owns the Black Sea Fleet, for instance—is mere detail. The most important thing, I repeat, is the political decision. Once we have decided the most important thing we should move on to military reform, which is closely linked with the strategic offensive arms treaties with the United States and with the Vienna treaty, under which profound reform could be carried out in the Army over the course of seven and four years respectively.

Troops' Discontent With Situation Published

Moscow Officers Appeal

PM1401112792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed report citing appeal by Moscow Garrison Officers' Assembly to peoples, parliaments, heads of state, leaders of the Armed Forces, Army and Navy officers, and Armed Forces veterans: "Moscow Officers' Appeal"]

[Text] A new officers' social organization—the "Moscow Garrison Officers' Assembly"—has adopted an appeal to the peoples, parliaments, heads of state, leadership of the Armed Forces, Army and Navy officers, and Armed Forces veterans.

It says, in particular:

We are appealing to you at a crucial period in history and the peoples' life when a new Commonwealth is emerging from the ruins of the Soviet Union. Motivated by a sense of loyalty to the Commonwealth's peoples and to our military duty, we state that the political games involving the Armed Forces are becoming increasingly dangerous to civil peace, the security of the Commonwealth, and the fate of servicemen, who have become hostages of these games. The increasing gulf between political realities and the legislative base and the incompetence of the new power structures in resolving military questions create an atmosphere of arbitrariness and encourage the adventurism of certain politicians who are speculating on ideas of the superiority of their own national rights.

The tragedy of the Army, which has endured the collapse of the political system, is threatening to develop into an all-national tragedy according to the Yugoslav, Lebanese, Georgian, or any other scenario, unless we stop the disintegration of the Armed Forces. The political wisdom shown by the heads of state, which made it possible to form the Commonwealth on the basis of the accords in Minsk and Alma-Ata, offers a chance to make this union real and useful for all the peoples by relieving them of excessive military spending on creating and maintaining full-scale national armies.

While recognizing the sovereign states' right to create their own Armed Forces, we call on the parliaments and heads of state:

to suspend the operation of unilateral normative acts regarding the Armed Forces and primarily the hasty administration of an oath, because an oath adopted under pressure is immoral;

to establish by a joint agreement a transitional period for the transformation of the Armed Forces; with the participation of military specialists, political scientists, legal experts, and economists, to prepare on the constitutional basis of national legislation and international law programs for creating unified strategic forces and general-purpose joint armed forces in the interests of the collective security of the Commonwealth, and also armed forces of their own for independent states that have expressed a wish to have them;

until the end of the transitional period, to preserve the integrity, unified command, and control system of the Armed Forces; to elaborate laws ensuring the sociolegal protection and status of servicemen during service and after they are discharged into the reserve.

We call on the Armed Forces leadership to display maturity and independence [samostoyatelnost] in this emergency situation. We promise to support those who can correlate the value of their posts and portfolios with the consequences of the disintegration of the Armed Forces. Our generation of officers has the honor of showing courage, as Admiral I. Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, has done.

We also appeal to the peoples of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States].

Compatriots! Without claiming privileges and fully sharing all the privations of the transitional period, officers are prepared to surmount any difficulties together with the people. But we cannot agree with the hasty disintegration of the Army and the Navy, which runs counter to the peoples' interests and to common sense. In the interests of the security of our peoples, for the sake of peace and friendship in our land, and in the name of the future of our children and grandchildren, demand that your parliaments, presidents, and governments support our proposals.

We appeal to officers and all servicemen of the CIS Armed Forces. Colleagues, fellow servicemen, regimental colleagues! We swore allegiance to all the peoples of our country. No one has freed us from that oath. Let us be sensible, the weapons in our hands were entrusted to us by all peoples of the Commonwealth. We call on you to show endurance in order to give our politicians the opportunity to adopt laws on the Armed Forces in a calm atmosphere.

We call on participants in the All-Army Conference of Representatives of Officers' Assemblies on 17 January 1992 to support our position. We will not allow politicians to make us turn our weapons against each other!

Signed on behalf of the Moscow Garrison Officers' Assembly by Council Chairman Colonel B. Titov, Cochairmen Colonel V. Andreyev, Rear Admiral V. Biryukov, and Major General V. Platonov, and others—11 signatures in all.

Transcaucasus Officers Appeal

LD1301174892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1713 GMT 13 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Voronyuk]

[Text] Tbilisi, 13 Jan (TASS)—An appeal to all CIS presidents and ministers of defense, and to the commander in chief of the armed forces of the Commonwealth, demanding the preservation of the unity of the Armed Forces and that the spontaneous process of taking national oaths in the Army be halted, was adopted here today at an assembly of the officers of the staff and leadership of the Transcaucasus Military District.

In the view of the District's servicemen, the adoption of national oaths is "political diktat, an infringement on human rights, and political shortsightedness by the leadership of separate CIS states and of the highest leadership of the former USSR." The officers' assembly demanded that the Transcaucasus Military District be preserved, and that an intergovernmental program providing servicemen with living accomodations, integrated pension provisions, and social guarantees be elaborated.

Questions Voiced

PM1401085592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 92 First Edition p 4

[Report by Anatoliy Usoltsev report: "Officers' Assembly: Politicians' Ambitions Bring Army to Brink of Collapse"]

[Excerpts] Chelyabinsk—[Passage omitted] What will happen to the Army? Who will have to swear an oath of loyalty and when? What will be the fate of those servicemen who, having completed their service, want to return to their native regions, which are now foreign countries?

These and other equally urgent questions were voiced last Thursday, 9 January, at the officers' assembly at a motorized rifle combined unit based in the Southern Urals. [passage omitted]

Lieutenant Viktor Pustoshkin spoke at the officers' assembly. His words, addressed to his comrades in arms, were as direct and cutting as the sweep of his arm through the air.

"As a result of recent events in Ukraine a danger has emerged for the Armed Forces and for the Commonwealth of Independent States. We have all witnessed the feverish activity to seize military districts and the Black Sea Fleet. I am convinced that this is by no means in line with the fundamental interests of the peoples both of Ukraine itself and of Russia. Who is planning to attack Ukraine? Who threatens its sovereignty? Against whom is the strike strategic grouping of forces there being created? A desire for national isolation has never brought anyone success. We do not understand the actions of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, but the position of the Russian leadership is equally hard to understand. Why is Russian President Boris Yeltsin keeping quiet?"

The speech by the calm and thoughtful Aleksandr Balobin, a Belarussian assistant unit commander for educational work, was couched in a different tone. But this made his quiet and penetrating words all the more urgent:

"I am prepared to swear an oath of loyalty to Russia, but when I complete my service I want to go home to Belarus. But where are the guarantees that I will be accepted there, that I will be paid my pension or get an apartment? Each sovereign state now has its own procedures and there is no unified law on the Armed Forces. For instance, how will pensions be allocated to those officers who will have to be dismissed from the Army in a month or two? And won't I be blamed in my homeland for taking the Russian oath?"

"What I cannot understand is why we need to dismember a unified Army?" was the thought expressed by Russian officer Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Gulyayev, commander of an intelligence battalion, who picked up on the Belarussian's idea. "Is it really right to use the military to resolve ethnic conflicts? Will politicians really put my friend the Uzbek Khaid Khamidov and me on different sides of the barricades when they work out our relationship?"

Officer Khamidov raised his hand in indignation: How could his friend Sergey Gulyayev have such an idea? Colonel Dmitriy Sokolov, regiment commander, spoke at the meeting:

"For hundreds of years our forefathers fought their way to the Black Sea. Russia sometimes went without necessities to create a fleet and a naval base in the Crimea at Sevastopol. How much Russian blood has been shed by its defenders!"

Another idea was voiced by Dmitriy Sokolov. The Russian leadership has still in no way defined the status of the Armed Forces. There is still no law on the Army. It is said that the legislators have no time to pass one. When a law was needed introducing the presidency in Russia, that work was done in virtually a single night, but there is no time for a law on the Army. This kind of vagueness with the Armed Forces leads to commanders having to issue soldiers with passes from their units while themselves having to feed hogs in order to solve the food problem.

In the appeal adopted to the Russian president the officers' assembly at the combined unit insists on the immediate resolution of the Army's problems at the level of heads of the commonwealth states. It expressed the hope that Russia would make its weighty contribution to the debate. The division's officers also elected their delegates to the All-Army Officers' Assembly, which is opening in Moscow.

Tensions Cited Over Housing Considerations

AU1401102092 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 14 Jan 92 p 8

["RMC." report: "CIS: Soldiers Quarrel About New Apartments"]

[Text] Apparently, the tensions between the new republics of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] and within the former Soviet Armed Forces regarding the question of who may move into the apartments built with German money in the European part of the former Soviet Union are increasing. Bonn representatives noticed relevant signs when the first section with 725 housing units ready for occupancy was handed over in the Belarussian town of Borisov, which is about 70 km from Minsk.

CDU [Christian Democratic Union] Bundestag Deputy Bernd Wilz, who attended the handing-over ceremony together with the two Bonn state secretaries Schaefer (Foreign Ministry) and Beckmann (Economics Ministry) on 8 January, told DIE WELT that it is not yet clear that soldiers of the "Western Group of Troops" (WGT) who return from eastern Germany will actually move into these apartments with their families. If these apartments were occupied by other Army members, above all high-ranking ones, this would be a violation of the agreement concluded between the former Soviet Union and the FRG on 9 October 1990 and for which DM7.8 billion were provided by Bonn for the financing of a "special civilian housing program... for the withdrawing Soviet troops"—according to Article 3. As an argument that others besides the soldiers withdrawing from eastern Germany are entitled to one of the approximately 36,000 apartments to be built by the end of 1994, their "anyway privileged situation" as recipients of German marks and consumers of Western products was mentioned. Wilz warned against this development, which would necessarily result in increased readiness to apply for asylum if the assignment practice that is beginning to appear in Borisov becomes generally known among the WGT members.

Wilz, who talked to representatives of the political leadership in Moscow and Minsk during his four-day trip, reported on numerous unsolved questions and risks in the field of the security and defense policy of the new CIS members. The situation in the various categories of mass destruction weapons, such as the nuclear potential and stocks of chemical weapons, is particularly critical. Even though the CIS members are apparently prepared to largely destroy them, Western concerns about the control over the potential are understandable, Wilz reported. Therefore, he proposed that the nuclear and chemical weapons of the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union be collected for central storage and be put under international control.

Political

Democratic Parties Attend Consultative Congress

LD1301183192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1535 GMT 13 Jan 91

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] On January 11-12 in Kiev the Consultative Council of the Democratic Congress discussed the sociopolitical situation in the CIS member states and prospects of cooperation of the democratic forces in a new political situation.

Speakers at a session of the Consultative Council of the Democratic Congress (CCDC) pointed to the impermissibility of the escalation of tension in relations between member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and especially between Russia and Ukraine, to the deepening economic and political crisis in the republics of the former USSR, as well as to the fact that in the current situation a real danger emerged of the alliance between the neobolshevist and national-patriotic forces and the growth of their decisive influence on the declasse masses, what can destroy the nascent democracy and plunge the republics of the disintegrated empire into the horror of neobolshevist dictatorial regimes. The appeal of the Consultative Council, which is entitled stop national-bolshevism urged the democratic forces of all the states to repulse strongly any manifestations of national-bolshevism, to explain to the population the disastrous character of hysteric neobolshevist demagogy. The document also urged law enforcement agencies to ensure the observance of republican laws, not to permit the propaganda of class and ethnic exclusiveness and racism, as well as appeals for the forcible overthrow of legally elected bodies of state power.

The Consultative Council worked out a joint stand on problems dealing with the future of the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union. Its essence consists in the following: It is necessary to insist that leaders of the independent states create immediately a mechanism permitting to divide the Armed Forces and to settle other interrepublican differences within the framework of a negotiating process on the level of competent permanent delegations led by official ambassadors of the states, with a broad participation of expects from all the parties concerned. Speakers at the session repeatedly stressed that arguements between the republics over the division of the Armed Forces and the whipping up of tension around this problem are inspired by the forces expressing the interests of the military-industrial complex, as well as by the leaders of the republics trying to distract the attention of broad popular masses from setbacks in overcoming the economic crisis.

The Consultative Council urged the CIS member states to support the decision of Ukraine and Belarus to eliminate nuclear weapons on their respective territories. The Consultative Council suggested that the leaders of the Russian Federation and the management of the Ostankino TV Company define and announce the control stock of the TV Company, along with granting to the CIS member states a definite quota of shares, so that they will be able to participate on equal terms in the control over the activities of the TV company and the impartial coverage of developments in the independent republics of the former USSR.

The Consultative Council reached agreement on a regular exchange of information and documents, and on holding consultative meetings and talks, starting from February-March of 1992.

The sittings of the Consultative Council were attended by representatives of democratic parties and movements from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Turkmenia and Armenia, specifically the Demrossia (Democratic Russia) Movement, Narodny Rukh of Ukraine, the Liberal, Republican, Social Democratic, Christian Democratic Parties of Russia, the Party of Constitutional Democrats of Russia, two Social Democratic Parties from Ukraine (the Social Democratic Party and the United Social Democratic Party), the Party of the Democratic Revival of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Liberal Democratic Union and so on. Narodnaya Rada, the opposition force in the Ukrainian parliament, the Democratic Russia bloc from the Russian parliament, the Free Russia parliamentary group and other groups were also represented at the session. The Consultative Council was addressed by Yuriy Afanasyev, co-chairman of Democratic Russia, Ivan Drach, leader of Narodny Rukh of Ukraine, Aleksandr Dobrovolskiy, chairman of the United Democratic Party of Belarus, Vladimir Lysenko, chairman of the Republican Party of Russia, as well as representatives of the groups of democratic parties and movements in the parliaments of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and other republics.

Economic & Social

Unified Transport Network To Be Retained

PM1301144192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "Departments Instead of Transport Ministries"]

[Text] The unified transport network that operated on the territory of the former USSR is likely to be retained. It is something all the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] members want. So Russian Transport Minister V. Yefimov believes. During a news conference held at Staraya Ploshchad [Russian Government headquarters] 9 January, he said that despite the fact that separate national transport management structures are being set up (the railroads administration in Ukraine, for example), ministers are prepared to collaborate to ensure free movement of all types of transport without customs or checkpoints. It is proposed that coordinating bodies to manage the unified transport system will be formed in Moscow 10 January. The Ministry of Railways continues to exist physically, although it no longer exists as a legal entity. It will not be destroyed, but will be brought into line with the needs of the CIS members.

Talking about the structure and tasks of the Russian Transport Ministry, the minister announced that departments have been set up to manage air, sea, and motor vehicle transport. Their activities will include setting transportation rates. The idea is to curb passenger transport prices as much as possible by increasing freight charges. Rates for transport services are lower in Russia than in some other Commonwealth states.

As for privatization of transport, B. Yefimov went on, strong enterprises and components have more chance of becoming joint-stock companies than weak ones. The maritime fleet department has already worked out plans for privatizing the St. Petersburg and Chernomorskoye ports. But railroads have not become joint-stock companies anywhere except in the United States. We are not going to hurry either, the minister said, but if we start setting up joint-stock companies, it will only be with local railroads.

Prospect of General Miners Strike Viewed

PM1401105792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jan 92 p 1

[Article by A. Kalinin: "Dangerous Drift"]

[Text] A general strike is imminent at the mines of the former USSR. The miners are demanding not sausage but the opportunity to earn enough for a dignified life.

In Karaganda five new mines have joined the "Tentekskaya" mine, which has been on strike for a month now. Another four are prepared to "down tools" at any time. The Vorkuta miners are only just being restrained from stopping work. There is also unrest in the Donbass and Kuzbass. This information was given to me by Aleksandr Sergeyev, chairman of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Russia. It is entirely likely that in the near future we shall witness a new general miners strike.

Let us recall that the miners of the Karaganda basin were the first to leave last year's strike. That was explained by the fact that the trade unions had succeeded in agreeing with the republic's government and the miners supported their president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, who promised rapid economic reforms. Today this agreement has been called betrayal and the leaders of the official miners trade union who were able to return the people to the pit face have been called traitors.

But in our day labels are nothing new. What are the real reasons which compelled the miners to leave their underground galleries?

No, not the raising of prices. And not the absence of goods on the store shelves. Nor the shortage of money at the Karaganda banks, as was initially asserted. All that could merely be a pretext. The miners are ready to take responsibility for some of the problems. For that it is necessary that, as previously agreed, the mines themselves be allowed to sell 15 percent of the coal they mine. For that it is necessary that a general tariff agreement be signed between the miners and the government, the need for this agreement having been recognized even by Pavlov's team. But it is not being signed. The mines' collectives are still kept away from the sale of the coal which they extract. The package of proposals to turn the mines into joint-stock companies is being ignored in the top echelons while bureaucratic privatization continues.

The same problems perturb the Russian miners. The leaders of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Russia suggest their own mechanism for wages and social insurance elaborated by their experts. "We are not demanding: Give us for everyone! We are asking: Give people the opportunity to be concerned for themselves for their living standard and health," A. Sergeyev says.

Why, for instance, do the miners disagree with the existing social insurance system? Primarily because there are different deductions into social insurance from each person depending on wages but in the other direction—from state to individual—that different is not taken into account. Some people, who do not live long enough to receive a pension, do not manage to benefit at all from the money they themselves have earned. The miners suggest: Let each person have his own personal account and let each person have the right to use it as he sees fit at what is in his opinion the most appropriate time.

Most bitter of all is the fact that the top echelons of power in Russia support the miners. Papers with resolutions declaring that there should be an investigation have become bogged down as they did in Ryzhkov's day in the middle bureaucratic echelon. In A. Sergeyev's opinion people from the old apparatus who have the necessary work experience but who have not changed their style have settled in that echelon. As before they are telling the miners' leaders: "Who do you think you are?" and are doing everything to obstruct with red tape the making of the necessary decisions. "What annoys us is that we would like ourselves to mitigate the blow from the economic reforms, which we support and consider necessary," they say at the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Russia. "But our offers of help were rejected."

So far the Russian miners, in solidarity with the Karaganda miners, are watching to ensure that coal is not shipped from their regions to Karaganda. But many are also prepared for more resolute actions. And unless a conciliation commission is formed between the Russian miners and government by 15 January the Independent Trade Union of Miners will no longer keep the collectives from striking.

Media

TASS Carries 14 Jan Press Review

LD1401071192 Moscow TASS in English 0613 GMT 14 Jan 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 14 TASS—Today's newspapers continue publishing reports on the liberalisation of prices in the country and the situation in the Commonwealth Armed Forces.

The newspaper PRAVDA says "it is clear that prices will not go down but will continue growing, if they are not stopped by administrative measures".

"Gaydar's team cannot freeze salaries and wages while freeing prices," the newspaper said.

"The first ten days of the liberalisation of prices shook Russia but did not fill shops. Lower-income families have suffered most of all as even milk and bread are in short supply. People go to shops, like to museums, to see new prices. But neither queues nor shortages have been eliminated," the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA said.

"The Russian Government is trying to make the independent mass media 'the civilised fourth power," Russian minister of the mass media and information Mikhail Poltoranin said.

In an interview with the newspaper TRUD, Poltoranin stressed that the Russian Government has prepared a draft resolution granting 6.8 billion roubles in state subsidies to periodicals and 1.7 billion roubles to the Russian Ministry of Communications in 1992.

TRUD carries a statement by the Council of the General Confederation of Trade Unions, which says that the sweeping liberalisation of prices coupled with the inefficient social security system has brought millions of people to the brink of poverty and starvation.

The confederation urged the presidents and bodies of power of the Commonwealth states to "embark on the path of compromises, accord and fruitful cooperation".

The newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA publishes a report about a rally held by communist-minded Muscovites in the centre of the city last Sunday [12 January].

The demonstrators protested against the ruination of the country, uncontrolled growth of prices and attempts to curtail freedom of speech, the newspaper said.

The newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA analyses the situation in the Army.

It warns that attempts to divide the Armed Forces by a territorial principle will weaken their combat might and cause serious material damage.

A newly created public organisation, Moscow garrison officers' assembly, has called on the Commonwealth states to suspend their resolutions and laws on the Armed Forces, including the introduction of republican military oaths of allegiance, PRAVDA said.

"If the nation does not realise the importance of the state, it is seriously ill," doctor of philosophy Aleksandr Tsipko said.

In an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, he stressed that "only when the overwhelming majority of Russians recognise their personal responsibility for the failure of the socialist experiment and the collapse of the country, can one hope that peace will reign on this territory".

"The Islamic community is not homogeneous. That's why Central Asian republics should be careful while joining it in order not to destroy the existing relationships within the community," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA said.

It pointed out that Iran and Turkey are competing for the right to influence the former Soviet Central Asian republics.

The newspapers also carry reports about the situation in Yugoslavia and Algeria, and the world's reaction to the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

International Affairs

Kozyrev Begins Visit to Estonia, Germany

LD1401101692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0930 GMT 14 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad, 14 Jan (TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has arrived here today on his way to Estonia and the FRG to familiarize himself with the progress of reforms in Kaliningrad Oblast and how they are affecting the socio-economic situation.

In an interview with a TASS correspondent the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry that he intends to discuss questions of an international nature with the leaders of the oblast, since this region occupies a special position in Russia as its outpost in Europe, its maritime gateway. The task is to turn the oblast into an economic outpost.

The agenda for Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Kaliningrad includes talks with the leaders of the oblast, as well as of sectors of the economy, and a meeting with fishermen.

On Genscher Discussion Topics

LD1301194792 Berlin ADN in German 1836 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—During his visit to Bonn on 15 January, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev intends to discuss the problem of the Russian Germans with his counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Kozyrev told ADN today that he does not believe that Boris Yeltsin's statement during his visit to Saratov on the subject of a republic of Russian Germans will have an effect on mutual relations.

Yeltsin said that the creation of an individual republic is only possible if Germans account for 90 percent of the territory's population. According to Kozyrev, this statement does not contradict the position agreed on in the Yeltsin-Kohl communique. Talks are now underway with people who are currently resident in the area. Their opinions must also be taken into consideration, to prevent one historic injustice being replaced by another.

According to Kozyrev, the meeting with Genscher will be used to prepare for the conference of foreign ministers of the Helsinki participating states, which is to take place in Prague on 30 January. Some agreements on bilateral relations, which were made during Yeltsin's visit to Germany, will also be discussed.

Swedish Minister Discusses 'Painful Matters'

LD1301163292 Moscow TASS in English 1451 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—A broad range of questions has been discussed during today's talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his counterpart Margaretha af Ugglas. There were 43 bilateral treaties and agreements between the USSR and Sweden. These documents will have to be revised by experts in order to make some technical amendments that will bring them in line with the latest changes.

In addition to bilateral relations, the sides also discussed problems of Baltic cooperation. Ugglas expressed the view that the Russian foreign minister should attend the Nordic Council meeting, which is to be held in Copenhagen on March 5. They also discussed Russian-Swedish cooperation within CSCE frameworks.

The ministers also touched on some "painful matters" inherited by the two countries from the past. They include the Swedish aircraft downed in 1952, the Raoul Wallenberg case, the sinking of Swedish ships during the war, and violations of Swedish coastal waters by Soviet submarines. Both sides note substantial progress in all these areas. Their experts are continuing contacts to clarify the situation once and for all.

Margaretha af Ugglas told reporters after the meeting that a good foundation was laid for the further promotion of Swedish-Russian relations. The minister said one of her main goals in Moscow was to express the Swedish government's support to Russia's reform, to the democratisation of the Russian society and its switchover to market economy.

"The road, upon which the Russian Federation has embarked," Ugglas stressed, "deserves to be backed. The Swedish side is striving to impart concrete forms to Swedish-Russian cooperation and to primarily develop contacts in transport, ecology and the power industry. The new Swedish budget allocates for this purpose three times more money as assistance to East European states. Moreover, Sweden plans to transfer to russia some modern technologies and know-how."

The Swedish foreign minister will fly to Kiev today.

No Contention in Treaty With Lithuania Cited

OW1301225592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the group on ratification of bilateral treaties with the Baltics Aleksander Granberg told the Russian parliament's presidium January 13 that the Russian-Lithuanian treaty signed in late June of 1990 provides for free choice of citizenship for all people permanently living in Lithuania.

"That means we have already no points of contention on the observation of the citizens' rights. Such a treaty will give a legal basis for settling specific questions in the framework of specific agreements," Granberg said.

He believes support of the treaty by Russian deputies in Lithuanian parliament also testifies to the need of its ratification as soon as possible.

No Plans Yet To Recognize Croatia, Slovenia

LD1401034492 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0153 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, December 13 (TANJUG)—Russia is not going to join those Western countries which intend to recognize Yugoslavia's seceding republics of Slovenia and Croatia, estimating that by doing so it would only lessen—and not boost at all—chances for a political solution to the crisis in Yugoslavia.

In the circles of Russia's Foreign Ministry, TANJUG's Moscow correspondent was told that Russia would keep an eye on the situation developing in the territory of Yugoslavia and take decisions in line with it. Only Slovenia has definite attributes for getting recognized, whereas Croatia is far from this, the case being the same with some other Yugoslav republics, the same sources said.

As learned at the representation offices of a large number of independent states which three weeks ago set up in Alma-Ata a community of independent states instead of the Soviet Union fallen apart, their viewpoints are very much alike.

As to Russia's stand, being considered in official circles is that correct is the estimate of press commentators that Russia is repeating Western mistakes while estimating the conflict in Yugoslavia. So, in an article entitled "Serbian Experience," PRAVDA writes that Russia's mass information media "are copying without thinking the Western interpretation of the conflict in Yugoslavia."

"The first mistake in their interpretations" is that not being accepted is the fact that "Croatia is not entitled to all territories within its communist borders delineated by (the late Yugoslav president) Tito, a Croat," the newspaper cautions.

"The forced Croatization of the said regions is a crime," PRAVDA says, adding that the present Croatian majority in many places is the direct consequence of the genocide committed at the time of the independent state of Croatia, a quisling creation under the 3rd Reich auspices in World War Two, against its Serbian population." Croatia's top leadership is taking its "new democracy" as a prop for all that "the activities of that state are very dangerous, and even sinister."

Union Leader Blames Ukraine for Shortages

LD1301161192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 0900 GMT on 10 January carries a 3-minute live or recorded interview with Yevgeniy Konstantinovich Kuznetsov, chairman of the "Serp i Molot" Metallurgy Works trade union committee in Moscow, by special correspondent Ilya Skigin.

The 9,000 workers of the metallurgy works are said to be in a difficult situation. Kuznetsov says that there is a shortage of raw materials. He explains that even in 1991 the works managed two pay increases and various perks. "The start of the new year has placed the works in a difficult situation, brought it literally to its knees. We believe this is primarily the work of Ukrainian politicians, since our main procurement was from Donetsk and Dneprospetstal. We have been forced to develop ways of letting people take leave en masse, paid of course. This is planned for something like 70 percent of workers at the works."

Uncoordinated price increases have made life still harder. Asked whether any metal is being received from Donetsk, the main supplier, Kuznetsov says: "None at all, not a single blank. In addition, deliveries from Russia's combines have stopped because coal, again from Ukraine, is not being sent to their areas." The price of coal, notes Skigin, has seen a more than 20-times increase. Apart from sending people off on leave, the collective is trying to cope by gathering what raw material it can by dispatching runners to scour the various areas of Russia.

Siberians To 'Turn Back' Ukraine Nuclear Waste

PM1301155192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Aleksey Tarasov report: "Siberians Refuse To Accept Waste From Ukrainian Nuclear Power Stations"]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk—It looks as though relations between territories of the former Union are entering the next fantastic phase: It is now the turn of politicians of the area to divide up the unified nuclear power complex.

Krasnoyarsk Kray Soviet Presidium has sent President L. Kravchuk of Ukraine a telegram. It says: In view of Ukraine's refusal to hold talks on delivering foodstuffs and industrial goods to the Krasnoyarsk region, as of 15 January the kray will cease to accept waste from Ukrainian nuclear stations.

So the threat of a break in the extremely important technological chains linking nuclear facilities in the Commonwealth countries is beginning to become real. Thus the talk of the disruption of economic ties is switching to a totally different plane. What is happening is truly frightening. Countries that possess nuclear stations and weapons simply have no right to behave in such a fashion. All the indications are that our instinct for self-preservation has been letting us down lately. A new "practice" in dealing with nuclear facilities is emerging.

What can explain the appearance of the Krasnoyarsk authorities' ultimatum? Ukraine recently stated that it would continue to deliver sugar, vegetable oil, and other products to the kray in exchange for lumber, but in rather different proportions. "Amounting to robbery"—was the comment of local leaders. And in their reply they announced that the kray is still accepting nuclear waste from Ukrainian nuclear power stations.

In general, the logic of this reminder is explicable. The spent nuclear fuel storage facility (it is in Krasnoyarsk-26 and forms part of a defense industry monster—the mining and enriching combine producing weapons-grade plutonium, the material for nuclear bombs), for instance, has taken the interest of representatives of South Korean business circles, which are prepared to pay $1 million per tonne of spent nuclear fuel from their power stations admitted to Siberia. But the Ukrainian nuclear power stations paid the combine 94,000 rubles [R] per tonne of radioactive waste. A price of around R960,000 has been agreed for this year.

Krasnoyarsk-26 is regularly receiving fuel assemblies from the South Ukrainian, Rovno, Khmelnitskiy, and Zaporozhye nuclear power stations. But Ukrainian products are being delayed. In December, using ration cards, residents of the secret Siberian city could buy only 250 grams of bread per day per consumer...Incidentally, many workers at the mining and enriching combine are not saying that it is more profitable for them to accept radioactive waste from abroad. They think they will be able to serve both Ukraine and South Korea.

But after sending the telegram to Kravchuk, the Kray Soviet Presidium prohibited the leadership of the mining and enriching combine from sending the special containers for spent nuclear fuel to Ukrainian nuclear power stations. Shortly before this, in the final days of 1991, it authorized the combine to hold talks with representatives of South Korean firms about accepting radioactive waste for temporary storage. (To run risks, so long as it is for dollars?....)

I think that, since there is no state concept for handling radioactive waste, there is no point in accusing the Krasnoyarsk authorities of being more interested in organizing contacts with Eastern partners than with Western. I think there is no point in trying to determine who is suffering more severely from regional voluntarism—Ukraine or Krasnoyarsk. Back in its first issue this year IZVESTIYA wrote of the need to immediately elaborate interstate agreements helping to integrate the nuclear area. It is clear that no declaration of independence solves the problem of the recycling [utilizatsiya] and burial of nuclear waste. Specialists of all the world's nuclear powers have struggled and are continuing to struggle to elaborate and organize a reliable system for storing the extremely dangerous waste of the nuclear industry. All the indications are that certain politicians in the Commonwealth countries believe that radioactive "trash" can be dumped on the outskirts of absolutely any village or city....

So unless Ukraine changes its position, the Siberians intend to turn back railroad cars carrying nuclear waste after 15 January.

Zhirinovskiy To Meet Turkish Leaders in Ankara

OW1301152792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF [INTERFAX] has been informed in the press service of the Liberal Democratic Party that the party's leader, Mr. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, arrived in Ankara last night. He had been invited by some businessmen and politicians. During his week-long visit Mr. Zhirinovskiy is going to meet members of the Turkish top political leadership.

The press service emphasized that there would be no "language barrier" between Mr. Zhirinovskiy and his hosts because Mr. Zhirinovskiy had a "perfect command of the Turkish language".

IMF Team Collects Information on Economy

LD1301142492 Moscow TASS in English 1331 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—A team of experts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is now collecting essential information in Moscow on the state of Russian economy and finances, TASS was told by well-informed sources.

This information is needed to adopt a decision on the official application for Russia's membership in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, signed by President Boris Yeltsin on January 3.

Plenipotenitary representative of the Russian Government for relations with international financial organisations Konstantin Kagalovskiy also told TASS that a joint programme to promote the Russian economic reform was now being drawn up together with IMF. The document is to be submitted shortly for the consideration of IMF governing bodies. According to Kagalovskiy, the West could grant, in accordance with this programme, 15 billion U.S. dollars worth of aid to Russia. This sum will constitute the backbone of the fund for stabilizing the Russian Federation's balance of payments.

Delegation To Visit NATO Headquarters

OW1301224592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of the Russian Federation will fly to Brussels, Tuesday [14 January], on the invitation of NATO's headquarters. The delegation leader, Chairman of the Russian parliament's Committee for Defence and Security, Mr. Boris Bolshakov, told IF [INTERFAX] that the talks would focus on the role of Russia in the system of European security.

Journal Interviews Bakatin on Bugging Devices

92US0182A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 1, Jan 92 p 2

[Interview with Vadim Bakatin, former head of the Interrepublic Security Service, by P. Lukyanchenko; place and date not given; followed by commentary by M. Dymov: "Three Questions for Vadim Bakatin"]

[Text] [Lukyanchenko] What were you guided by when you gave the Americans a diagram of the installation of bugging devices in the new U.S. Embassy building, along with samples of these devices?

[Bakatin] An official explanation was given in this regard by the Interrepublic Security Service, which, unfortunately, not one newspaper published in full.

First of all, I was guided by the fact that we do not live in an epoch of "cold war," when the main task was the struggle with "bloody imperialism," but in a period when the main thing is trust and honesty in relations between peoples. Security should be built on this.

I was guided by the concerns of the country, which became interested in putting an end to the international scandal surrounding the new U.S. Embassy building in Moscow, which has been dragging on for 10 years now. Not long ago the U.S. Congress passed a law prohibiting the operation of this building and also the new construction of our embassy in Washington. So, shall we engage each other in senseless losses, or shall we nevertheless use our resources not for the construction of embassies (which is a lot of money—$300 million for one building), but for the welfare of the people?

I was guided on this question by the opinion of the presidents of the USSR and the RSFSR, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, which understand perfectly how important it is to untie the embassy knot of contradictions that is clouding the mutual relations between the two countries. Negotiations on the transfer of diagrams were conducted starting from September, and, on the American side, more people were involved than just R. Strauss, the U.S. ambassador in Moscow.

I was guided by considerations of not causing damage to our security, and I took into account the opinion of experts who had a direct connection with the "equipment" of the new embassy building, and not simply someone who had heard something about it. Thus, these experts know—they are not assuming, they know—that American specialists, with the help of the most advanced instruments, succeeded in finding all or almost all of our contrivances long ago; that the equipment that was placed in the building became obsolete long ago—the "novelties" there are from the middle of the 1970's, not at all from the 1990's; that as far back as 10 years ago the system became completely ineffective—all of the feed cables were disconnected, etc.; that there are no other buildings equipped according to this principle; and that we did not "expose" any other facilities with the transfer of the diagram. Incidentally, no one turned over samples of bugging devices as you say—this is another "canard," although it also does not have any significance.

If you take the legal side of the question, which is frequently talked about now, no laws were broken, if only for the reason that we do not have a law on state secrets. But the KGB chairman himself has the right to make decisions in his own department as to what is secret and what is not, and what it is feasible to transfer for political or other considerations.

The passions around this story are being whipped up and are advantageous most of all to those forces inside the former KGB itself that do not want to give up the ideology of "chekism" in its pristine form.

[Lukyanchenko] Is it true that 40 archival files of operational surveillance and reporting on Western covert intelligence offices and embassy employees "disappeared" from the Interrepublic Security Service of which you were chief?

[Bakatin] You must be thinking of the incident when a discharged employee destroyed a number of documents without doing the necessary paperwork. Such a case occurred, and a special commission looked into the question, although I am not familiar with the results of its work. As far as I know, material of an informational nature stamped "secret" was destroyed, not operational inventory files.

[Lukyanchenko] What else do you plan to do? Are the rumors that you are setting up your own association true?

[Bakatin] I have not yet decided what I will be doing. There was the idea of an association on security problems within the Interrepublic Security Service, which would include professionals of the highest class in this field from various interested departments. I support this idea in every way, but I did not succeed in carrying it through. I trust that it will not die. However, I never intended to create "my own" association, with me as its chairman.[end Bakatin]

Commentary

This interview with V. Bakatin probably could have been left without commentary, if it had answered all questions that arise in connection with his turning over technical documentation to the American ambassador on the bugging of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

But, alas, there are more than enough of these questions. It is impossible not to agree with V. Bakatin that relations between peoples should be built on "trust and honesty." But they should also be built on mutuality.

However, until now no information has been received that the United States submitted any kind of documentation to us on their own intelligence service.

Perhaps Bakatin's action will promote a resolution of the problem of the embassies in Moscow and in Washington? This is not so. Up to the present time (and more than a month has passed), not one official person of the U.S. government has made a statement confirming reconsideration of its positions on this question.

Why? Well, for the reason that, as the specialists say, the embassy building represents a gigantic transmitting antenna which, with or without Bakatin's documents, will have to be rebuilt in any case.

Nor do the Americans have confidence that Bakatin turned over absolutely all of the documentation. Not because he did not want to, but simply because he was not given everything, his action being viewed as treason against the Motherland. As we learned, after learning about the action being planned, the two subunits of the former KGB that were responsible for the "stuffing" in the American Embassy almost started a strike.

In the interview with ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, Bakatin refers to the "opinion" (?) of the presidents of the USSR and Russia, although in such an extremely important case it was necessary to refer to a document. It is interesting also that neither Gorbachev nor Yeltsin, nor their offices, confirmed Bakatin's statement.

Last, the consequences of this action will have an effect for a long time on the international position of Russia as the successor to the USSR. Relations have now already become complicated with Finland, which supplied "specially prepared" bricks for the construction of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. In this connection, seven persons from the USSR Embassy in Finland were recently declared "persona non grata" and are supposed to leave Finland by March, which will hardly improve our relations.

PRAVDA Assesses Bush's Asia-Pacific Tour

PM1401095192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jan 92 p 4

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov article under the rubric "View From Moscow": "Pre-Election Diplomacy. On G. Bush's Pacific Trip"]

[Text] The most difficult and risky trip in Bush's entire presidency—that was how the U.S. press described in advance the tour of the Asia-Pacific region by the White House incumbent, which has just come to an end. The route, 26,000 miles long (Australia, Singapore, South Korea, Japan), has been called fantastically difficult and risky because Bush has had to use foreign policy as a means of achieving domestic policy ends.

The point is that this New Year trip essentially marked the beginning of the U.S. President's battle for his own reelection. To his misfortune, the present election campaign has coincided with an economic slump in the United States. This forced the head of the Washington administration to shift the traditional emphases.

At first, Bush saw his task as "talking to friends and allies in the Pacific about sharing the burden of leadership, which the United States has been bearing in the world since the end of the 'Cold War.'" However, on leaving Washington, the President spoke in a far more down to earth and pragmatic way. He said that the top priority aim of the trip in question was to create new jobs for Americans and ensure unhindered access for "Made in the United States" goods into the area. According to Bush, free trade should become a two-way street.

The annual trade turnover between the United States and the Asia-Pacific region has reached $300 billion. This is approximately one-third again more than the volume of its trade across the Atlantic. But the Americans import far more goods from the Asia-Pacific Region than they export there. For example, Japan accounts for almost two-thirds of the U.S. foreign trade deficit ($40 billion-plus out of $70 billion). Economists have calculated that every billion of imports in excess of exports costs the United States 23,000 jobs. Consequently, the unemployment of around 1 million Americans can be seen as a side effect of Japanese trade expansion.

That is why the creation of new jobs in his own country became a kind of top priority task in Bush's foreign trip. After all, his compatriots reproach the White House incumbent increasingly frequently for the fact that he has gotten too carried away with foreign policy matters to the detriment of the country's internal problems. The staff of the presidential retinue were not chosen at random, either. During his trip around the Asia-Pacific region, Bush was not accompanied by Secretary of State Baker, but by Secretary of Commerce Mosbacher. Something else was even more unusual. The head of the administration took with him two dozen leading U.S. businessmen. They included the heads of three major U.S. automobile concerns: General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler, on whose toes the Japanese competitors are treading particularly painfully. Suffice it to say that last year the "Big Three" managed to sell only 15,000 of their vehicles in the Land of the Rising Sun, while around 4 million (that is, one in three) Japanese cars were sold on the U.S. market.

The point is not only that this is being perceived as a national humiliation and a psychological trauma in the United States, which had the reputation for being the world's top automobile power. Bearing losses of $5 billion, the "Big Three" have now been forced to close over 20 of their enterprises. The Japanese press compared the presence of the big shots of U.S. business alongside Bush to "gunboat diplomacy." In the 19th century, attempts to break down the closed doors of feudal Japan with the assistance of large-calibre weapons, were also called thus.

To my mind, Bush's present trip is noteworthy primarily because the United States and its partners have somehow changed roles. For the first time it is the United States that is placing the emphasis on the trade and economic aspects of bilateral relations, coercing Japan and other states in the region to make specific concessions that would bring new jobs to Americans. And, for the first time, their Pacific allies—whom Washington spent decades persuading to sacrifice their own interests for the sake of strategic partnership and opposition to the "Soviet threat"—are now inclined to talk of the new political realities that have emerged following the end of the "cold war."

This time it was Tokyo that championed the idea of devoting a Japanese-U.S. meeting at summit level primarily to global partnership, that is, cooperation in the international arena, while moving the nagging contradictions in trade and economics into the background. The guest from Washington was most worried by chronic ailments in bilateral relations. He was aiming for greater openness in the Japanese market, equal conditions in production (the abolition of subsidies and privileges), the standardization of legislation in the sphere of intellectual property, and new talks on "mutual structural changes" (Tokyo assesses these as an attempt to impose U.S. rules on the Japanese business world).

It is an impracticable task to use such differing approaches to arrive at a common denominator. Therefore the participants in the Tokyo meeting feverishly sought a compromise. The Japanese had nothing against rescuing the White House incumbent. After all, by championing a "new world order," Bush is actively opposing protectionism. And there is nothing worse for the Land of the Rising Sun than obstacles across the path of its goods. Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa promised to double the import of U.S. motor vehicles in the next few years, as well as of components and parts for them. But Tokyo was not able to yield to any other demands—to "voluntarily" halve the sale of Japanese motor vehicles on the U.S. market, and particularly to allow cheap rice to be imported from the United States.

As a result of the talks that Bush held with Miyazawa in spite of his indisposition, the following documents were adopted: "The Tokyo Declaration" and "The Joint Japanese-U.S. Statement on Promoting World Economic Growth." The United States pinned great hopes on these. After all, any mention of the victories of Japanese competitors, particularly on the motor vehicle front, evokes the following phrase there: "Things cannot continue like this." However, as was the case in the past, each of the sides is interpreting the documents its own way. Whereas Washington is seeing them as a a list of commitments, Tokyo prefers to see them as a "catalog of guidelines."

Bush's Pacific trip really did turn out to be the most difficult and risky in all the years of his presidency. It undoubtedly helped discover new spheres of cooperation with partners who are now turning into trade and economic rivals rather than military-political allies. But I do not think that the visit to Australia, Singapore, South Korea, and Japan can be assessed as a successful launch of Bush's campaign. In order for foreign policy to win points within the country, a vague compromise, which in sports terminology could be described as no more than a "draw," is insufficient.

Sakhalin Governor Arrives in South Korea

OW1301183592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [13 January], Governor of Sakhalin, Mr. Valentin Fyodorov, set out for a six-day tour of the Republic of Korea where he intends to meet with members of the South Korean government, and with businessmen and cultural figures.

Before departure, Mr. Fyodorov expressed hope that in South Korea both sides would conclude mutually advantageous trade agreements.

Government To Observe Soviet-DPRK Treaty

OW1301235192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1800 GMT 13 Jan 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview given to our correspondent an official from the Far Eastern department of the Russian Foreign Ministry said that, as a legal successor of the USSR, Russia would observe the provisions of all formerly signed treaties, including the Soviet- North Korean Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance of 1961. Such was the official position of the Russian government.

Of course, the treaty was signed over 30 years ago and was out of date, having clauses which had to be made more specific, the diplomat said. Negotiations were needed to sort this out. Nobody seemed to be in a hurry, however, which meant the treaty would not be revised in the near future, he pointed out.

Japan Aid 'Will Depend' on Kurils Settlement

PM1301142792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 92 First Edition p 2

[TASS-BELAPAN report under the "World Newsbeat" rubric: "Japan: Aid in Exchange for South Kurils?"]

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister K. Miyazawa has made it clear that the timetable and the scale of economic aid to Russia from the Land of the Rising Sun will depend on finding a settlement to the long-standing territorial dispute between the two states. He also noted that "it will take some time to resolve the problem of major investment by Japanese companies in the economies of the republics of the former Soviet Union, because it is still not clear how that country will be represented."

Khasbulatov Meets With Italian Senators

PM1401124792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Parliamentary observer Robert Minasov report from the White House under the "Sensation" rubric: "Changing Horses in Midstream"]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, received a delegation of Italian senators representing the Italian Parliamentary Committee for Justice headed by its Chairman Giorgio Covi, in the Oval Hall of the Russian House of the Soviets yesterday.

In his opening speech, Ruslan Khasbulatov noted that the Russian parliament is developing contacts with its Italian colleagues with great satisfaction; the basis for these was laid by the Russian parliamentarians' visit to Italy. The head of the Russian parliament stressed that the Federation's top legislative organ is very new, and this explains a number of substantial shortcomings in its work. The lack of parliamentary traditions and professional knowledge, as well as the skills of parliamentarianism are having a particular effect. According to Khasbulatov, our legislators are very tempted to become involved in executive activity. But, once they have obtained the relevant post, they discover that they are completely unequal to the task.

Khasbulatov noted that an extremely complex situation prevails in Russia. Therefore he cannot rule out the possibility that parliament will instruct President Boris Yeltsin to change the cabinet, which has proved to be poorly qualified and incompetent. "There is nothing terrible in one government being replaced by another, more competent one," Khasbulatov noted. "And we should not make a big deal out of it. After all, there is the president, parliament, and other state structures. In postwar Italy there have been over 40 cabinets, and nothing has happened...."

If the president does not want to change the government, then parliament can use its powers to form a cabinet itself.

The chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet was asked a great many questions to which he gave extremely detailed answers.

Your correspondent asked Giorgio Covi whether he was satisfied with the meeting.

"Certainly. This was a very useful and frank conversation. Your chairman made a strong impression on our delegation."

TASS Cites Genscher on Vienna Talks

LD1301215992 Moscow TASS in English 2126 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Stepovik]

[Text] Bonn January 13 TASS—The resumed Vienna talks on conventional armed forces in Europe and on confidence- and security-building measures on the continent acquire particular importance in view of changes taking place in the former Soviet Union, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher maintains in a statement circulated here on Monday [13 January].

One of the first priority goals of the German Government is to draw members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) into the negotiating process and into involvment in European security structures. The entering into force of the first-ever treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), signed in 1990, will become an important prerequisite for that, Genscher pointed out.

The need to supplement the CFE treaty with a new one which would envisage a limitation on the numerical strength of the armed forces will be discussed in Vienna, Genscher noted.

"The German delegation has prepared an appropriate draft treaty and presented it to negotiators. Our purpose is to establish a stable situation in Europe's east through negotiations and prevent an uncontrolled growth of the numerical strength of the armed forces of the CIS member states.

"The talks on confidence- and security-building measures provide a good chance to mold relations of openness between negotiating countries.

"The Federal Republic hopes that good groundwork will be laid during the present talks so that a package of important agreements could be prepared before a CSCE summit, to be held in Helsinki in spring this year," Genscher emphasised.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin To Visit Bryansk, St. Petersburg

OW1301183392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At 9 a.m., January 14, Boris Yeltsin will fly from Moscow to the Bryansk region. Besides Bryansk, Mr. Yeltsin will visit Novozybkov, a region strongly exposed to radiation following the accident in Chernobyl.

The Russian president is expected to meet with the population, visit shops and hospitals, and talk with the local leaders.

The president's press office reports that after a night rest in Moscow, Mr. Yeltsin will fly to St. Petersburg where he will visit the merchant port and meet with workers of the container terminal. He will also visit shops and markets, and talk with residents of St. Petersburg and with the leaders of the city and region.

Interviewed Prior to Visit

LD1401111992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin left for Bryansk this morning. A brief conversation between Boris Yeltsin and journalists took place by the steps leading to the airplane.

A question: How does the president evaluate yesterday's statement by Ruslan Khasbulatov on the incapability of the government and the necessity for its resignation.

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] Any leader, just like you and me, can have emotional outbursts sometimes. The government is not a pair of gloves...

[Unidentified correspondent, interrupting] But you are not going to ...in such a...

[Yeltsin, continues] ... and to adopt a draft, or to adopt laws and to vote for those laws is a little bit easier—but even here many errors are made—than to implement them. No, I will defend the government.

[Correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, what is the aim of you trip to Bryansk?

[Yeltsin] This is a working trip, just another trip round Russia, when it is experiencing such a difficult time. Especially since I promised long ago to visit Bryansk in connection with the Chernobyl affair. One must also look into the situation there. In general, this is a business trip, a business working trip. [end recording]

Answering journalists' questions, Boris Yeltsin said he would not resign from the post of head of government. The president denied rumors that Russia has plans to introduce its own money. It is expected that Boris Yeltsin will return to Moscow tonight, and tomorrow morning the president is to travel to St. Petersburg.

'Sources' Say Yeltsin 'May Quit' Government

OW1301182792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to sources close to the Russian president, Mr. Yeltsin may announce his decision to quit the post of head of the Russian government next week to concentrate on the Commonwealth's political affairs.

Among the prospective candidates for the vacancy are Vice-President Aleksander Rutskoy, Mayor of St. Petersburg Anatoly Sobchak and eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fyodorov. It is not ruled out that the candidacy of the current chairman of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, will also be considered.

The Russian parliament may resume the discussion of candidates to the post of prime minister to rule out the practice whereby one person holds the posts of president and prime minister.

Yeltsin Spokesman Denies Report

LD1301172492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1704 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Jan (TASS)—Pavel Voshchanov, press secretary of the Russian president, has refuted the report by INTERFAX that Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, will possibly announce his resignation from the post of head of government next week. "This report bears no relation to reality", Pavel Voshchanov told TASS today. The president's press secretary added: "I do not know what sources INTERFAX draws such information from".

Officials Respond to Khasbulatov Criticisms

Gaydar Interviewed on Differences

LD1401022792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2106 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Interview with Russian Vice Premier Yegor Timurovich Gaydar with correspondent Sergey Dorenko in Moscow; from the "Vesti" newscast—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Dorenko] Yegor Timurovich, what is your view of today's events?

[Gaydar] The executive and legislative authorities have different roles. The legislators adopt the laws, monitor, and criticize. We have to act. We, of course, respectfully accept criticism from the legislature. Today we have been criticized for a few things: first, because we are reducing military expenditure very sharply. Yes, this is painful. Yes, this is difficult. But we are absolutely convinced that the country does not have the possibility of continuing to bear this colossal mass of military expenditure, under the burden of which our economy has actually collapsed. It is better to invest money in conversion. It is better to invest money in the social protection of those who work in defense factories. But we simply have neither the means nor the possibilities to continue to invest money in the mindless bulks of tanks standing in the steppes and deserts and blocking up the open spaces of the homeland.

We are criticized for wanting to raise taxes. We do not want this. But we are profoundly convinced that if you are unable to reduce expenditure any further—and perhaps to reduce it further at once over three weeks really is difficult—then everything you are unable to reduce, everything you are planning to finance has to be financed on the basis of normal, healthy financial sources, and not by way of the printing press. Because, just as there will be a crisis in the family budget if the father of the family spends more than he gets, so there will be a crisis in the state budget if you spend more than you get. This crisis is called inflation, and it is precisely as a result of this that prices rise.

We are criticized for the rise in prices. Well, prices today are rising in the first instance because for a very long time in this country, people spent without counting and thought that it is possible to reduce, to lower taxes, without reducing expenditure. It is precisely as a result of this irresponsible and unthinking policy that we are today trying to settle accounts, and are forced to settle accounts.

Of course, it is hard to accept reality; it is hard to accept that level of prices as the retribution for this financial irresponsibility. At the same time, it is the truth that has to be faced. And I think that the worst thing today is to get into a panic, to start immediately...just having encountered difficulties, when properly speaking no one has paid any taxes yet, they have not started to pay taxes...just because...and it is natural that social groups defend their interests and explain that it is better to pay low rather than high taxes...to get into a panic today, to start to urgently dismantle the tax system, to further pull down the finances which we have only just started to stabilize is the direct route to hyper-inflation and it really is the direct route to national catastrophe.

I want to say that our government is not planning to resign.

[Dorenko] When you started to work, there was discussion about the government and the parliament, supplementing each other, would work towards reforms. After today's speech by Ruslan Imranovich, to what extent is this position placed in doubt?

[Gaydar] I think that this criticism by parliament of the government's activity is natural, and moreover, is politically understandable, and I do not think that it can, in whatever manner, hamper our normal work in implementing the economic reforms.

[Dorenko] Well, we wish you success. Thank you for finding time to come into our studio today. Goodbye.

[Gaydar] Thank you.

Further Gaydar Comment

LD1301224892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar has evaluated the criticism addressed to the government as a natural reaction of the legislative power to the unpopular measures which had to be taken by the executive power. Everything is going on as expected, he believes. He does not agree with the assertion that the government has failed to predict the results of price liberalization, which has turned out to be just mechanical price increases.

[Begin Gaydar recording] No, of course I do not agree with such a view. For the moment, everything that is happening—and I repeat again: given that this is all as difficult as has been envisaged—is taking place within the framework of our projections and our expectations. Actually, there is almost no proper data on the price dynamics as yet because there are no prices as such at the moment. There are price demands, price expectations reflected in the price lists, and price tags. Often no trade is going on at these prices.

The industrial enterprises are now trying to lay down their price expectations by hiking the prices of their goods. Very often it turns out that there is no effective demand at these prices. What goes on is a complicated and very difficult process of adaptation of these price expectations to the realities such as money supply, the money supply limits, the seriously tightened budget policy which we are now introducing, and so on.

Therefore, I think that despite the difficulties this process is facing, it is progressing in a normal, natural way, as we have expected. The most frightening thing that could be done now would be to give way to panic, to start taking superficial and popular corrective measures. [end recording]

Shakray: Statements 'Irresponsible'

LD1301215192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Studio interview with Sergey Mikhaylovich Shakhray, state counsellor for legal policy and deputy chairman of the Russian Government, by Pavel Kasparov; from the "Novosti" newscast—live]

[Text] [Kasparov] As we know, the well-known differences of opinion between Russia and the Ukraine on military political matters were the focus of attention at the talks between delegations of the two states which ended in Kiev on 11 January. Our studio guest today is Sergey Shakhray, state counsellor for legal policy and deputy chairman of the Russian Government. It was he who headed Moscow's delegation at the talks in Kiev. So, Sergey Mikhaylovich, today, following the exchange by Yeltsin and Kravchuk of fairly tough statements, can one say that the outline has been sensed, so to speak, of a compromise on the basis of common sense?

[Shakhray] I think that a commonsense outline already existed and in this case it is a good thing that common sense worked.

[Kasparov] The second question: We have already reported on the accords that were generally reached on the dividing up or registration of the Black Sea Fleet and the ground troops now stationed in the Ukraine. But what about the oath?

[Shakhray] The issue of the oath was also subjected to examination and the experts received quite clear directives on this score. What are we talking about here? I believe that, in the future, servicemen called up from the territory of Russia and the Ukraine will no doubt swear allegiance to their own state, to the state of which they are citizens, Russia or the Ukraine.

[Kasparov] Is this just what you believe or has an understanding already been reached?

[Shakhray] This is a task for experts.

[Kasparov] I see.

[Shakhray] When they do their service, including in the strategic forces, they will fulfill their military duty while remaining citizens of the Ukraine or Russia. The situation is more difficult with regard to those servicemen who are now doing their service and who have sworn allegiance to the Union. They cannot be chopped up anyhow. There should not be any contests nor should the method of voluntariness be introduced here in such a supposedly democratic form. I think that the formula that should be used is that of the pledge, the pledge that a serviceman signs to respect the laws of the state on the territory of which he does his service and undertakes to...

[Kasparov, interrupting] That is, virtually along with the contract of military service, he signs that he will serve...

[Shakhray, interrupting] There is a certain similarity to a contract. It is a pledge to carry out the demands of the regulations and this will now replace the oath. There has been an analogy in our history. In 1918, in accordance with a decree by the Central Executive Committee, officers of the former Tsarist Army did not swear allegiance but rather made a solemn promise and loyally served the workers and peasants army.

[Kasparov] Allow me to ask this question. To what extent can the accord now reached between Russia and the Ukraine serve as an example of how to resolve other possible contradictions of a similar kind, between Russia and Moldova for example, or Azerbaijan, or other states of the present Commonwealth?

[Shakhray] Well, in the broad sense, as a way of resolving disputes through talks, it can be applied to all the republics of the former Union. The state delegation that I headed will have to hold talks not only with the Ukraine but with all the 15 former republics. In the narrower sense, this formula is undoubtedly applicable to Belarus, for example, where a large part of the military grouping is also to be disbanded in accordance with the Vienna and Paris agreements.

[Kasparov] The very last question, taking advantage of your presence in the studio. You have watched our program right from the start; as one of the leaders of the Russian Cabinet of Ministers, what do you say about the essence of the statement by Ruslan Khasbulatov?

[Shakhray] I think in the present socioeconomic situation statements of this kind are, at the very least, irresponsible. Yes, of course it would be nice to have lower taxes, but then the question arises of how to fund medicine, and those very same teachers who had that episode, and those very same servicemen who, together with their families, cannot now be abandoned to the whims of fate. The government will lower taxes. The government must be given time to work. The 11 days that have passed do not provide grounds for a resignation demand. It seems to me that one should know the Constitution of the state that one leads. Only a Congress of People's Deputies, by introducing alterations into the Constitution, can raise the issue and grant the Supreme Soviet the right to form a government. The president deals with this at the moment and he was entrusted with this by the people and the congress. At any rate, the government of the Russian Federation is not about to resign.

[Kasparov] Can one regard this as yet one more subject for confrontation between the parliament and Cabinet of Ministers?

[Shakhray, laughing] I think it is yet another case for using the commonsense formula.

[Kasparov] Well, thank you very much. Let me remind you that Sergey Mikhaylovich Shakhray, state counsellor for legal policy and deputy chairman of the Russian Government, has been in our studio.

Commentator Views Criticism

LD1401012792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2106 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Commentary by Nikolay Svanidze; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Yegor Gaydar himself, in several interviews, has not concealed that a government engaged in unpopular reforms should go sooner or later. The boldest ambitions of Gaydar boiled down to succeeding, prior to this departure, in raking away as many as possible of the obstacles which have fallen to the lot of the Russian Government. It is possible that there is too much dirty and thankless work in the economy to seriously try to get rid of the government now. That is what our commentator thinks.

[Begin Svanidze recording] The statement by Ruslan Khasbulatov, made immediately after his trip through the Russian interior, is unexpected more for its rashness. After all, no more than one and a half weeks have passed since the time prices were freed. In essence, however, it was quite possible to have expected it.

Relations betwen Khasbulatov and the closest governmental milieu of Boris Yeltsin are not unclouded, and the authorship of the words "children," as applied to his young opponents, belongs precisely to Ruslan Imranovich, and not Aleksandr Rutskoy. The heavy impressions from his trip in Ryazan oblast were quite capable of being the grounds for sharp criticism. In addition, Khasbulatov has to ensure himself a position as strong as possible in the parliament where, under the leadership of Baburin, a respectable populist wing is gaining in strength.

And here, the direct threat to adopt a legislative decision on removing the government—if Yeltsin himself does not resort to this—is intended to strengthen support for Khasbulatov in the Supreme Soviet. It is also possible that Khasbulatov decided to convince Yeltsin of the need to sacrifice the present government if the economic reform does not produce positive results for a long time, and thus save the democratic leadership of the country as a whole.

The likelihood of such a variant has long been considered by experts. But at present, for the president, the time for such a fundamental decision on this score has not yet arrived. The reform has just started, and the government has not exhausted the limits of public confidence. So, in all probability, the statement by Ruslan Khasbulatov had more of an emotional undertone of the moment, and will hardly have any serious political consequences beyond the parliament. It is even possible that the author himself will resort to carefully repudiating it, and will propose that it is interpreted in a constructive spirit. [end recording]

Industrialists, Entrepreneurs Hold Congress

Yeltsin Addresses Congress

LD1101120392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0922 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Speech by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at Congress of Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs in Moscow—live; from the "Direct Conversation" program]

[Text] (?I would like) to say that I fully support the idea of creating the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs [Rossiyskiy Soyuz Promyshlennikov i Predprinimateley]. [applause]

In conditions of the transition to the market economy, industrialists, entrepreneurs, and organizers of production inevitably will play a key role. You are one of the bases of the success of Russia's economic policy, whose transformation we have begun. The time has come to show what you are capable of. A real market brings competition, the risk of bankruptcy, responsibility primarily for oneself. Of course, this is a harsh regime, but that is what the market is like and these are its laws throughout the world.

The difficulties of the country's critical financial and economic situation are a heavy burden not only for those who know how to earn money, for businessmen, but primarily for ordinary people. We all are constantly obliged to recall how difficult our lives are today. Of course, I have a particularly heavy impression following my three-day visit to the towns of the Volga region.

It is now more important than ever before to ensure the removal of the disharmony between trade and production capital, to ensure the transition from redistribution of the wealth that has been produced—this already has been said here today—to the production of new wealth. Today this is where the chief test of the maturity of Russian entrepreneurship lies.

We have reduced state expenditures considerably in order to affect the people's interests as little as possible. Defense expenditures have been squeezed sharply, to the limit of what is possible. At 1200 today, there will be a government meeting on the defense question and there again will be a discussion of the budget as we have not yet been able to come to a final decision on that question.

Spending has been cut on administration and investment. By the way, I do not quite understand why questions have arisen here about the investment tax. In fact, investment taxes were removed by decree of the president of the Russian Federation. The total burden on the state and of course on the enterprises remains very high. It is no secret that Russia has been obliged to take upon itself the major part of the unavoidable expenditures of the former Union budget.

We have been obliged to introduce a new value added tax. The main feature of that tax is that revenue from it enters the budget almost immediately after the output has been sold. If prices rise, then budget revenues rise simultaneously, making it possible to cover the necessary expenditures and preventing any further deficit. It is necessary to make use of a temporary simplified accounting scheme, to put up with some shortcomings for a while. In our conditions this tax is vitally necessary. It, as it were, automatically restrains inflation.

For some years the country has been marking time. Meanwhile, the monetary system has collapsed. Incentives have been lost and production has declined.

The sick economy was going downhill increasingly; the old mechanisms were coming to a standstill, and as a rule, nothing was created in their place. I do not have to explain to you that time has been wasted, and every day of procrastination will cause more suffering for the people. Understanding this factor made us venture forth into something which in any situation any government and any politician would try to avoid. The most difficult and the most urgent measure was the deregulation of prices. No doubt it would be preferable first to patch up the hole in the budget, and to cease endless emission, to stabilize money supply and to carry out the whole of privatization, as it should be done in a civilized way, and only then to set prices free.

Yes, that is the textbook option. But, regrettably, we already have missed the opportunity for this option because the people's trust has reached its limit.

I want to stress that deregulation applies not only to prices but also to economic links. We have been cutting considerably the number of state orders, beginning to place them at contractual prices, and setting up quotas beyond which no state orders can be placed. This is in the interest of enterprises as well as labor collectives, and therefore of the majority of the working people in the country.

If the state is to place an order or make a purchase, it can do this only at market prices. Heads of state enterprises have been demanding on many occasions the same terms as entrepreneurs. It can be said that deregulation is designed to meet this demand. From now on all economic sectors will be playing the game by the same rules. If there are still gaps in conditions in some places, we are ready to remove them.

Incidentally, during our trip we have encountered these discrepancies on many occasions. One will have to have patience with tough credit conditions which are to be defined by the Central Bank of Russia. But these hardships are not pointless. They are necessary political for macroeconomic stabilization, which must make our ruble firm, create a reliable platform from which to raise the economy and necessary conditions for the development of enterprise.

The most important direction in our economic policy is the deregulation of foreign trade activities and convertibility of the ruble. Real steps have been taken in this respect, and we will take further steps down this path.

Every enterprise, irrespective of its form of ownership, can now operate on the world market and conclude deals with foreign partners. By the way, I am slightly surprised by one idea voiced by Yuriy Alekseyevich Peskov regarding why enterprises are not being turned into joint-stock companies. I do not understand who is preventing them from taking that course. Conditions are being eased for the import of goods, to fill the domestic market. At the same time, the export of output will require a high export duty. I hope you understand why this measure is necessary. We have kept quotas and licenses, but the range of goods for which they have to be obtained has been reduced by a large proportion.

We are facing major problems in hard currency matters. Hard currency earnings from exports are falling. Russia has inherited large debts on credits taken out earlier by the Union, and payments have to be made on them. The Union's Foreign Economic Bank has gone bankrupt. We need urgently to get out of this most complex situation. This year, all exporting enterprises are obliged to sell 30 percent of their earnings to Russia's hard currency funds. From this fund we shall provide repayments on the debts and make some centralized import purchases. The state will buy hard currency on more favorable terms than before, at a level of 50 percent of the market rate. Now, that means approximately 50-60 rubles [R] to the dollar, instead of the R1.80 that was paid last year. Exporters are obliged to sell another 10 percent of their earnings at the full market value. This measure will encourage the stabilization of the ruble exchange rate. Hard currency will become more accessible to those who need it but do not have direct access to it.

Of course, enterprises are being deprived of a proportion of their income, but I believe that at this difficult time the government is entitled to expect understanding of the country's needs, especially as the incentive to build up capital is still there. I do not rule out the possibility that there are better solutions to Russia's hard currency problem. If you have such proposals, express them. I think they will be heard. The government is prepared to consider them.

A very important area in the economic reform policy is privatization. We have a program for 1992 covering this. It has been approved. I consider it extremely important to carry it out. The most urgent task is small-scale privatization of small and loss- making enterprises and of incomplete building projects.

Unfortunately, examples from my tour leave a negative impression. People are still waiting for something, although absolutely every legislative act, law, decree, and order—around 40 documents, a whole package dealing with privatization—has been passed in full by the government, the Supreme Soviet and the president.

According to the program, up to 25 percent of state property and up to 70 percent of enterprises in the fields of services, trade and catering are due to be privatized by the end of 1992.

The people sitting in this hall are mainly directors of state enterprises and entrepreneurs. I have already said and will say once again that the privatization program is not at all geared to the destruction and elimination of the state sector. We must indeed follow the route of share issues. And people who have already boldly ventured out today are showing a profit, and some enterprises are selling their shares to foreign firms at 25 percent. We support such proposals.

All of world experience shows that the retention of a large state sector nucleus is a common feature of the majority of the developed countries. In Italy, France, and Sweden it amounts to 40-50 percent. In our country, with its traditions, there can be no ignoring of this experience, so no serious economist is even thinking of total, let alone forcible capitalization in the form of large private capitals and holdings. Thirteen experts from the whole world are now at work in our country—market experts, economists, bankers, and financiers. We have signed a one-year contract with them. They are working full-time.

The actual privatization program—and this is also the lesson of world experience—is multifaceted. One could include here the issue of shares and perhaps leasing, although that has already run its course as a sort of deferred privatization. And in this context, we put a particularly high value on the experience of a large percentage of Russian enterprises. We could take the experience of Avtovaz, the Ulyanovsk aircraft enterprise, and others. During this trip, I visited the Saratov generating set production association. In January 1991 it went over fully to being a collective ownership enterprise. Facilities of the social sphere and productive assets with a depreciation level of 70 percent and over were transferred free to the ownership of the labor collective. The remaining property was transferred to the working people on the basis of deferred payments. It seems to me that your association along with the Russian government could render active assistance to enterprises in addressing these issues.

The process of privatization will not for the time being affect a substantial proportion of industry, including the defense sectors, but the workers in these enterprises can also take part in the privatization process. A percentage of profits could be channelled into the creation of investment acounts for employees. These funds could be used to purchase in full or in part other enterprises, shares, land and so on.

I am aware that the scientific-industrial union has been contemplating becoming a proponent of the idea of an international program for the development of workers' ownership in Russia.

This is also quite interesting, and the Russian leadership would support specific proposals in this field. Trade unions, as well as councils of labor collectives, could take part in this—the latter, in my opinion, have been finding it difficult, so far, to identify their place in the country's economic life.

The subject of conversion is a special one for Russia. We will be helping the defence industry to find a place for itself within the peaceful economy, during the most difficult period of reorientation of production.

The idea of a so-called tax credit for conversion is being suggested now. We are studying these proposals, and perhaps, this will provide an attractive option for the enterprises, where conversion is under way. A capable manager can and should be given money for a useful cause, specifically, for a good project. Beneficial conditions of crediting should be provided, as well as the necessary supplies out of the state's resources.

We will help with hard currency for re-equipment, in the form of credit guarantees, among other things. After all, now that Russia has become independent and it has become a member of the United Nations, a permanent member of the UN Security Council ...[incomplete sentence as heard]

Yesterday, talking to Prime Minister Major of Britain, an agreement was achieved that a summit of the leaders of the countries of the Security Council will be held in New York on 31 January, and a speech to this effect will be made by the president of Russia at the United Nations. I can say with satisfaction that concerning all the credits which had been blocked for several months, all the countries have now completely unblocked these credits for the Russian Federation. We are talking of no small sums here: 6 billion from Italy, plus $1.5 billion for the purchase of foodstuffs in wintertime; 2.5 billion from Germany; 2.5 billion from Japan; 2.5 billion from the United States; 2 billion from Canada; 2 billion from Britain; 2 billion from France, and others. [figures without units as heard]

First of all we are talking about the G-7. Of course, these credits will only be used for specific projects. We must bear this in mind. For specific projects to do with expanding production, reconstruction and so on. Well, talking about the conversion, I would like just to mention the experience I saw two days ago in Saratov, at the electric equipment works. I do not know of any other example like this—their production used to be 70 percent military and 30 percent civilian, but within a year they have turned it around completely to 30 percent military and 70 percent civilian. And by the end of the year the military proportion will fall further and the civilian proportion will increase. The overall growth of volume of production in comparable prices this year is 15 percent.

And similar decisions have been adopted in Saratov, Ulyanovsk, and Nizhniy Novgorod. If an enterprise has an appropriate program and if it knows what to do and how to do it we shall help them with these credits. In the near future in conditions of the catastrophic situation on the consumer market we shall give particularly intensive help those enterprises which are striving to work for the needs of the population.

Well, I shall return once again to the Electrical Equipment Works because I was really pleasantly surprised with what was being done there, for example, with the way they are organizing the production of refrigerators with a 300-400 cubic decimeter freezer—this is a unique piece of equipment, of course—with an annual output of 200,000 of them. They reached agreement with the Liebherr firm of the FRG. With the help of credits they are carrying out reconstruction in order to reach an annual production level of 200,000 of these refrigerators by the end of the year. Moreover, this will make it possible to sharply reduce losses of agricultural products during production and primary processing.

They are also ready to begin, together with VAZ [Volga Automobile Works] and General Motors, production of electronic control systems for automobile engines. The effect is as follows: fuel consumption decreases by 15 percent, the engine's power increases by 30 percent. The effect of automobile exhaust gases on the environment decreases by 10 to 15 times. All of this promotes the competitiveness of our engines on the world market. Of course, such intentions met with our complete support.

Esteemed Congress participants, we are in favor of more frequent and regular meetings with business circles. I consider that your point of view should be clearly heard during the elaboration of fundamental government decisions. Up to now we have not had sufficient contacts and I accept part of the blame for this. We shall develop various forms of discussion with businessmen of draft documents on questions concerning entrepreneurialism. Work is under way on documents on tax law, concessions and many other current problems. Play a more active role in this process, make use of your constitutional right to introduce legislative initiatives, let the government have drafts of documents which need for normal activity.

Enterprise, as you know, is a field with a high level of risk, especially now. For it to function normally it is obviously necessary to create a number of state guarantees, and such guarantees must be given. The state could go along the road of issuing letters of guarantee for state property which is not liable to privatization in the immediate future but has a high level of liquidity. We believe that this will be a good incentive for long-term capital investment in the development and improvement of production. Businessmen are also capable of establishing several extensive guarantee structures. Under a state guarantee, they could attract a large number of necessary commercial credits, from abroad too. By the way, we are mainly given credits for 20 years at an interest rate of 4 to 5 percent. That is the commercial rate.

A solid legislative base for the development of enterprise has already been created in Russia. You have considerable rights, and you know better than anybody that you can only build a new life with your own hands. A wide field of activity is opening up now in the spheres of privatization of state property, conversion of the defense industries, and the development of small farms. We require investment in various sectors of the economy. The economic, scientific and technical potential amassed by the country needs to be put to significant use.

Nowadays, the most farsighted businessmen are spending significant amounts on charity and patronage of the arts. In this they are pursuing not only the goal of publicity for their firms. Something else is much more important: to create a positive, true image of the businessman among the population and to change the social climate in Russia. For a long time the symbols of our society were classes, confrontation, and struggle. Now their place must be taken by social peace and partnership. We must all grow accustomed to the idea that a conflict-free society, just like the notion of universal equality, can exist only in utopian dreams; and as practice shows, partnership is much harder than confrontation. The task now is to provide high purchasing power for every sector of the population, without exception. Only on this foundation can we overcome the deep, historical roots of enmity between rich and poor. In the same package as other laws defining the strategy of the economic reforms, we have drawn up a law on social partnership: employers and their organisations, on the one hand, and hired workers and their trade unions on the other must become the main structures bearing responsibility for social peace in Russia.

Not the interference from the state, but their direct interaction is what must create a firm foundation for stability. We are only just starting today to create a system of social partnership in Russia. And in this connection, I would like to concentrate on one issue: a community of industrialists and entrepreneurs is only just starting to be formed in Russia. So far, the growing business community has no powerful and authoritative centre. If the Russian Union is able to become such a center, and unite, within its ranks, the leading force of managers and employers, in significant numbers, the government is prepared to recognize its authority officially, and register it juridically.

At the same time, it is no secret that a certain number of self-styled groups have already formed themselves in business circles, and each of them is trying to win a special trust of the government. I would say firmly that this should not be so, and will not be so. The requirement of anti-monopolism must operate in this sphere, too. The government would like to cooperate equally with all the business people of Russia, and I think that such an attitude is quite fair. [applause]

Esteemed industrialists and entrepreneurs. We are faced with great tasks. We will all need a lot of strength, and you in particular, because industrialists and business people always were the backbone of Russia's economy. Unfortunately, there will be no way to avoid overwork. But we have one aim: to overcome the economic crisis as soon as posible, by working together. To revive the Russian economy. There is no alternative to this. I have no doubts that you will be able to do yourself justice, for the benefit of Russia and for the benefit of the Russian people. The questions which have been raised here, and which will also be raised in today's speeches—I asked Arkadiy Ivanovich [Volskiy] to summarize them and pass them on to us, and we in the government, will take relevant decisions, on the urgent issues which will be raised here. I have just read—here is a magazine, VNESHNYAYA TORGOVLYA [FOREIGN TRADE], issue No. 12. Agnelli, vice-president of Fiat, begins his article, on page 8, by saying that, as far as Russia and its economic condition is concerned, we sould not lose heart, because great difficulties, among other things, create great opportunuties. I wish you great opportunities. Thank you. [applause]

Proceedings of Congress Viewed

LD1301091492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1754 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Viktor Petrenko and Petr Tsyrendorzhiyev]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Jan (TASS)— One set of "the rules of the game" will operate in all sectors of the economy from now on. The Government of Russia gave this assurance to participants in the All-Russia Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, held today in the capital.

Over 1,000 representatives of enterprises with all forms of ownership and of various organizations gathered in Moscow, and leaders of industrial unions and associations from 11 states of the Commonwealth attended as guests. Discussion dealt mainly with the strategy and tactics to be adopted by production chiefs during the transition to the market, which is now under way, and with ways of combining all reserves to speed up this process. They voiced support for the Russian leadership's economic transformations and spoke about ways of implementing radical reforms and forming the market infrastructure. Attention was centered on questions of social partnership and help for industrialists and entrepreneurs in the complex conditions of the transfer to a system of market relations. It was the view of the congress participants that by combining their efforts they should be able to become a force on which the Russian Government can firmly rely.

The address to the congress by Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, provided answers to many of the most urgent questions. He set out in detail aspects of the socioeconomic transformations scheduled for the near future. The congress adopted the action program of the new Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, which was registered with the Ministry of Justice early in January this year as the legal successor to the USSR Scientific-Industrial Union. The eminent economist and entrepreneur Arkadiy Volskiy was elected president of the union. He told a TASS correspondent that he unambiguously supports the program of economic transformations being pursued by Boris Yeltsin. "I see it as a step forward. As for the practical measures worked out by the government in the course of implementing the program, one may take issue with many of them, first and foremost with the taxation policy and the measures for social protection of the population. When laws are being passed which affect the reforming of the economy, account needs to be taken not only of the opinion of academic economists but also of the opinion of the people who will actually be operating the 'rules of the game'—directors of enterprises, economic managers, and entrepreneurs. The situation today is such that, if those goals are to be attained, there will have to be resort to lobbying by deputies," he stressed.

Volskiy Cited on Congress

OW1201003592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The National Congress of Businesspeople that closed in Moscow spoke in favor of cooperation between government, business and labor to find a way out of the economic crisis. The Congress' Saturday [11 January] statement lays down an economic policy program of the Russian government. The congress passed a program of action for the Russian League of Science and Industry, the successor to the Soviet League of Science and Industry. Its president is Arkadiy Volskiy, formerly the president of the Soviet League of Science and Industry.

Volskiy said in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] that nothing but the consolidation of efforts by all economic structures can lead to an upsurge of production, a key to economic reforms. "We all have to end seeing an enemy in a cooperator, leaseholder, state enterprise or defense factory," said Volskiy.

Asked about foreign assistance, Volskiy said that "here we must overcome all political ambitions to which we are easily susceptible." He said that he believed in foreign aid as a means to tide over the difficult period. "But later on comes the time for our responsibility," said Volskiy.

He expressed the opinion that the new league would inherit the extensive international ties of its predecessor.

Participants' Compatability 'Distressing'

PM1301114492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Mikhail Krushinskiy report: "Directors and Businessmen Spend a Whole Day Together Without Coming to Blows"]

[Text] The reason for their congress was the transformation of the Science and Industry Union—which brought together representatives of both the state and the private sector—into an analogous structure on the scale of the republic, under the name of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. It was registered at the Ministry of Justice 3 January, and last Saturday, 11 January, more than 1,000 protagonists in the future Russian market exchanged impressions of that market and of one another in the large assembly hall of Moscow's City Hall, still better known as the CEMA building.

In general, distressing as it may be, it emerged during the congress that the level of compatibility between activists of our old economy and the new is not much higher than that of oil and water. The nature of the debate itself was sometimes reminiscent of the stormiest of the congresses of USSR people's deputies. There were accusations of provocation and attempts to drown speakers with the slow handclap. Especially when K. Borovoy, in his habitual mildly sensationalist style, attributed to the body of directors a share of the blame for the prevailing disintegration and added that we are not likely to build a market at all as long as serious entrepreneurs (like Artem Atalyants) are in jail. Objecting to this, M. Yuryev, leader of the "Interprom" Association, observed reasonably, to the delight of some of those present: I have done a lot of work already, and nobody has put me in prison! He is right, of course, in our country people have never been jailed for no reason.

A dispute also flared up over who should and should not be regarded as a real businessperson in Rus. It was curious to hear, for instance, the producer of the world's worst combine harvester demanding the preservation of established industrial management structures, which have supposedly demonstrated their efficiency, while his colleague from the textiles sector, wishing to compliment his comrades in the state sector, points out that it is by their efforts that the main bulk of articles are produced in the country...

But conciliatory themes were also heard at the congress, as well as appeals for businesspeople to show unity both with each other and with the government. In this respect the report of A. Volskiy, president of the former Science and Industry Union, and the speech of B. Yeltsin, the country's president, were characteristic.

Volskiy enumerated the aims of the newly created entrepreneurs' union: to protect the interests of the class (without breaking it down into sectors), to integrate efforts to implement major projects, to combat monopolism, to train cadres, and to create a market infrastructure. He declared support for the government's course of "radicalization of economic reforms," while at the same time criticizing its "excessively academic" approach and insufficient consideration of world experience, and also its tax system, which creates "virtually intolerable conditions for capital investment."

Yeltsin said that the entrepreneurial class is "one of the foundations of success" for the economic reforms, and that the "disharmony" between the spheres of production and distribution of material assets must be eliminated. He praised the recently introduced value-added tax as "automatically" restraining inflation, and also gave a positive assessment of other government measures, but added that when decisions are formulated the viewpoint of business circles should also be taken into account, and he himself took part of the blame for the absence of the necessary contacts with those circles.

Here it should be noted that if relative consensus was achieved in any area between the directors and businessmen, it was with regard to the government's measures, and especially the new taxes. With rare exceptions, the attitude varied between "bad" and "very bad." It was pointed out that the new tax system is of an antimarket nature, that "a whole section of national income that could be reinvested in production is being exacted in tax" (G. Popov), and that "Gaydar's team" has taken its bearings not from economically active memebers of society, but from parasitically inclined circles that will finally drag us all into the mire.

A. Chubays, Russian minister and chairman of the State Committee for Property, took the floor on behalf of the "team." He did not conceal his liking for the government program. The course that has been set, he said, has the aim primarily of stabilizing the ruble, and the harsh taxes are the price of achieving this goal. Thanks to the course set, there is hope that by the spring inflation will not be more than 5-7 percent. True, the minister did not specify the time scale: per hour, maybe?

A. Chubays also likes the recently published privatization program. He regards its pace as "accelerated," but it has become clear to everyone that an even faster pace exists: "headlong." And that is what the government will not permit. The minister could not resist naming the disgraced privatizer L. Piyasheva, who was apparently trying to push through a headlong pace in Moscow, as a result of which a place in the waiting line of people wanting to buy a store was valued at "1,500-2,000."

Having thus sifted the wheat from the chaff, the congress delegates elected the new union's board, consisting of about 80 people. There were no shocks: A. Volskiy became president, A. Vladislavlev first vice president. Many of the industrial and entrepreneurial associations that exist in Russia, though, to the best of my knowledge, not all of them, now come under the roof of the newly formed structure (let us start getting used to the abbreviation—RUIE) [Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs].

Economic Relations Near 'Collapse'

PM1301134192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Vladimir Sluzhakov commentary: "A Loveless Marriage, As Expected"]

[Excerpt] For the first time, albeit with some degree of mutual contempt, the captains of industry who once frequented CPSU Central Committee plenums, and nouveaux-riches millionaires gathered under one roof 11 January for the first congress of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. The imminent slump in production which, according to expert estimates, threatens to acquire landslide proportions in the first quarter, will spare nobody.

The price liberalization and well-publicized measures in the financial sphere could merely aggravate the situation. So there was more than enough criticism aimed at the government. Union Chairman Arkadiy Volskiy reproached "certain" of its officials for their excessive pedantry and for ignoring practical experience, saying that they "are all but asleep and just looking for ways of retiring a little earlier."

Acknowledging the urgent need for a macroeconomic policy, the industrialists are highly concerned at the lack of some kind of mechanism which might allow production and employment to be maintained in vitally important sectors for some time. Economic relations appeared to be on the brink of total collapse. Only 14 percent of contracts for deliveries of raw material and goods for 1992 had been concluded by mid-December. Absurdity is rife: Tire production ground to a virtual halt only because dealers from the republics sold scarce tire production components abroad.

Inflation and the existing taxation system are creating practically intolerable conditions for capital investment, even though in a number of sectors facilities are worn to the limit. The process of wage demands is eating profits, and fixed capital is being corroded along the lines of the Yugoslav model. However, there is no other way of avoiding a social explosion.

The forecasts are these: If the government can withstand the pressure and refrain from price freezes and compulsory state orders, which are currently being demanded, and if inflation can be kept to a level of 20-25 percent per month, then the preconditions for extending facilities will emerge in the second half of the year. Entrepreneurs intend to take control of government rulings so that, after eradicating the budget deficit, taxes will in fact be lowered so as to stimulate a growth in production rather than a depression.

Any government decisions today will be "bad or very bad" and prompt protests: But Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the State Property Committee, noted that there were no other options. Among the multitude of accusations leveled at the government, one is conspicuous by its absence—inaction. It is possible to revive stringent state orders, but would they be honored? Once the circulatory system has been destroyed, it is not worth treating the body. So the key task remains: To reduce the budget deficit to zero within the first quarter, and to lower inflation to 5-7 percent by the spring and to 2-3 percent by year's end. "We do not intend to change course," the minister stressed. In his words, the missing documents on privatization will be ready in seven days, and it is possible to set about redistributing national-common property without delay. [passage omitted]

Coup Inquiry Completed; No Gorbachev Link

LD1101040992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2356 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 11 Jan (TASS)—Documents on the August 1991 Moscow putsch, prepared by the Russian procurator's office after five months of investigation, make up 100 volumes. The newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA reports on 11 January that "the investigation process has been concluded," and that the accused will begin to acquaint themselves with the materials of this case beginning next week.

Answering a question on the possible connections between Mikhail Gorbachev and the conspirators, Yevgeniy Lisov, deputy Russian Federation procurator general, representing the investigators, said that "everything that the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] did or intended to carry out in no way suited the USSR president." The investigation interviewed the personnel who serviced the president and 500 guards. The conclusion is unequivocal: Everything that took place was a surprise and provoked a sharply negative response from him.

"I believe that the case will be handed over to the court well before the middle of 1992, Lisov said, which is rather a short time for a case of this scale." In spite of the USSR's disintegration, the leaders of the investigation have no hesitation in the necessity of punishing the organizers of the putsch. "We accuse the members of the SCSE and their accomplices, Lisov noted, not of betraying the motherland, but of conspiring with the aim of seizing power."

Organizers Charged With 'Conspiracy'

LD1401133692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1238 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 14 Jan (KRIM-PRESS/TASS)—Organizers of the State Committee for the State of Emergency (SCSE) and people involved in the coup in August last year have been charged with conspiracy to seize power in the country. The accused and their defense lawyers were told today that the investigation had been completed and that they will start to be shown the materials of the case, the RSFSR procuracy press service has announced.

Vladimir Kryuchkov, Valentin Pavlov, Dmitriy Yazov, Oleg Baklanov, Oleg Shenin, Valeriy Boldin, Gennadiy Yanayev, Anatoliy Lukyanov, Aleksandr Tizyakov, Vasiliy Starodubtsev, Viktor Grushko, Yuriy Plekhanov, Vyacheslav Generalov, and Valentin Varennikov were called to account under the criminal code.

A large quantity of work has been done in four and a half months. Several thousand witnesses have been questioned and investigations have been made into the circumstances of the participation in the August events of both central and peripheral structures of the bodies of state government, state security, internal affairs, the Army and the Navy, the CPSU, and other political institutions. The activities of many hundreds of people were subjected to the legal appraisal of the investigation.

In addition to the individuals named above, there are also grounds for bringing charges against Geniy Ageyev, former first deputy chairman of the USSR KGB, and Vladislav Achalov, the former deputy defense minister. However, charges have not been made against them because of their serious illnesses.

Because of the sharp deterioration in their health, investigative work with the participation of Boldin and

Grushko has proven impossible. Both of them have been released from guard and are undergoing treatment. Evidence of the investigation relating to Boldin, Grushko, and Ageyev has been singled out for independent processing and the investigation of it has been suspended until the conclusion of the treatment of the above persons and the receipt of an appropriate medical conclusion. As far as Achalov is concerned, since he is a Russian people's deputy, the procuracy is deprived of the possibility of carrying out an investigation regarding him, since agreement on this has not been given by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

In the process of the investigation of the criminal case of the plot, cases of infringements and abuses which are not connected with this crime and which are of an independent nature have been revealed. This mainly concerns officials of the former USSR Committee of State Security (bugging of telephone conversations and other actions violating the constitutional rights of citizens). The above evidence has been singled out for separate processing and an independent investigation is being carried out.

An analogous decision has been adopted with regard to certain persons of the command personnel of the armed forces. Those accused in the main case are to be familiarized with the evidence of the investigation, contained in 125 volumes.

Gorbachev 'Forbidden' To Travel

LD1201231692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 12 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Germany's BERLINER KURIER newspaper today carries a front-page report saying that Mikhail Gorbachev has been forbidden to leave Moscow because documents have been found which allegedly compromise him on the August putsch. The Gorbachev family does not have the right to leave Moscow and is living virtually in a gilded cage, BERLINER KURIER writes, quoting a former Gorbachev aide. We telephoned Vladimir (Tumarkin), a man who is close to the former Soviet president, today. (Tumarkin) refuted the German report and said that Gorbachev postponed his trip to Stavropol not because of any travel ban but because of an indisposition.

Second Putschist Released

PM1301151092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Untitled report from IZVESTIYA, TASS, RIA, POSTFACTUM, AP column]

[Text] Of the 14 putschists arrested in the first days following the suppression of the August coup, 12 remain in the "Matrosskaya Tishina" detention center. Our correspondent has learned that, following Valeriy Boldin, former chief of the USSR president's apparatus, another of the accused has also been released from custody—Viktor Grushko, a general and former deputy chairman of the USSR KGB. Both left the prison walls for the same reason—serious illness.

Fuel, Power Minister Holds News Conference

Comments on Price Increases

LD1301151492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1221 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Report by TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan (TASS)—The price increases in Russia for fuel and power "will by no means solve all the problems" of this industry. This was stated today at a news conference by Vladimir Lopukhin, Russian Federation minister for fuel and power.

He recalled that the price of fuel coal had increased five-fold, that of coking coal eight-fold, oil five-fold, gasoline three-fold, kerosene five-fold, natural gas five-fold, liquefied gas three-fold, and electricity four-fold. However, he said, even at these prices—for example, oil at 350 roubles per tonne—not all oil-extraction associations could become self-financing. Not only that, he continued, but the idea was that these fuel and power price increases would lead to only two- or three-fold increases in industrial production. "In fact, when industrialists now sign contracts, they raise their prices by ten or more times," he said. During the news conference, the minister spoke in favor of retaining the former Union's integrated power grid, which "has taken shape over the decades" and is "an enormous element of the national wealth."

Lopukhin stated that negotiations with the Ukraine are now under way on numerous aspects of the fuel-and-power industry, including gas pipelines crossing Ukrainian territory and which Russia uses for supplies to Europe. He said that the Ukraine, without any prior agreement, is currently removing a daily-calculated amount from these pipelines to meet its own requirements. Thus Russia is not receiving the full amount of hard currency for its raw materials.

The minister also told journalists that power resources would henceforth be sold not only at state-regulated prices but free ones as well, in order to introduce market economics to the power industry. Thirty percent of all fuel coal mined, plus 17 percent of all coking coal, 20 percent of all oil, and 20 percent of all natural gas would be sold off at free-market rates.

Favors 'Sensible Privatization'

LD1301233392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Video report by correspondent G.Fedeyeva on news conference given by Vladimir Lopukhin, Russian minister for fuel and power, in Moscow on 13 January—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A news conference was held today by Vladimir Lopukhin, Russian minister for fuel and power. Journalists were primarily interested in whether sector enterprises would be transferred to private ownership. According to the minister, he favors rapid but sensible privatization. A new price structure is coming into being. Mobility, which is so essential with market relations, will dictate a situation where a strictly defined proportion of each type of fuel will be sold at free prices. Cash sales of all fuel and lubricant materials should lead to a 20 percent saving.

What is to become of the single power grid that for so many years stood as a symbol of an indissoluble union, as well as linking us to the countries of East Europe? According to the minister, it should not be rejected, but a system of commercial contracts beneficial to all must be conceived, which would deprive the republics of the chance to exploit their geographical situation as the Ukraine, for example, is doing at present. A gas pipeline to East Europe crosses its territory, and every day the Ukraine removes a quota which no one has authorized.

The minister promised to devote his next briefing to recent investigations into documents licensing fuel sales. For some types of fuel, fuel oil for example, the volume of the licenses awarded was twice that of the volume of fuel extracted.

Stages for Restructure Outlined

OW1401062392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Vladimir Lopukhin said at a Monday [13 January] press-conference in Moscow that work had started to develop a program to restructure Russia's fuel and energy complex, including its oil sector.

Three stages are envisaged. Stage one is the normalization of oil and oil product prices and the creation of a domestic oil market. By now, the price of oil rose five times from last year; of gasoline, three times; of natural gas, five times; of electricity, four times; of coking coal, eight times.

The entire structure of investments in the oil and oil-product industry must be revised. Stage two in the reform is the restructuring of the oil sector belonging to the fuel and energy complex. The fuel and energy minister believes it would be a promising undertaking to use large oil-producing and oil-refining facilities to form holding companies that can be privatized.

At stage three the enterprises will issue stock and be privatized, according to Vladimir Lopukhin. A group of observers is being established to monitor the process of the privatization of the fuel complex enterprises. This group will be headed by Mikhail Khodarkovskiy who was chairman of the board of the international financial association MENATEP.

Government Warned To Heed Trade Union Demands

LD1201114792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 8 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] It seems as though the trade unions, which have been criticized for their inertia for so long, have embarked on action. In a statement adopted tonight at a session of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FNPR], a protest to the government against violations connected to price liberalization and social protection of the population was expressed. Among topics discussed at the meeting were the disastrous situation facing working people on the verge of the market; the need for timely compensation payments, pensions, grants and disability allowances; the need to extend the list of goods and services for which prices will be regulated by the state; and the need for strict control over implementation of all the decisions made by the Russian government, and even the introduction of an upper limit for market price increases to 120 percent of state prices.

According to FNPR Chairman Klochkov, should the government refuse to accept this statement the trade unions will take rather decisive measures.

[Video shows the following]:

1. Suggestions made by FNPR on state prices were ignored.

2. There is no control over implementation of state-regulated prices.

3. The system of supporting the population with low incomes has not been implemented.

We propose that the Russian government:

1. Provide the population with financial compensation for December-January.

2. Extend the list of goods sold for state-controlled prices.

3. Prohibit the sale of these goods under free prices.

[Video shows Klochkov talking to a reporter]

[Klochkov] If the government continues to ignore the trade unions' opinion, positions, and constructive suggestions, we will be forced to take collective protest actions. We have no other choice.

Protest Action Planned for 17 Jan

PM1301122092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Irina Demchenko report: "Trade Unions Warn Government"]

[Text] The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FNPR] has set 17 January as the date for collective protest actions in the event that the trade unions' demands are ignored by the government and local organs of power. According to FNPR chairman I. Klochkov, his organization will support all forms of expression of civil disobedience, including strikes and stoppages.

Among the demands sent to the Russian Government by the FNPR in recent days are: unconditional observance of the minimum social guarantees declared earlier; expansion of the range of food products sold at fixed prices; introduction of subsidies on catering in school and student cafeterias, hospitals, and old people's homes; conclusion of tariff agreements in sectors with fixed prices for output; full indexation of the population's income; and other proposals that have an unfailing effect on the public at large. Not one of the proposed measures has been considered from the viewpoint of state budget potential.

Most likely, the trade unions' position cannot now radically influence the course of events, but it could act as a catalyst for certain processes. Suffice it to recall the major role played by the former "state and party" trade unions in the course of economic reforms in Nicaragua, Poland, and the GDR (during the unification of Germany). And now our own former "school of communism" has found a place in the building of the market economy, as the consistent pseudochampion of working people's interests. As FNPR chairman I. Klochkov put it, "we do not intend to delay or block the reforms, but we have our own view on the mechanisms of social protection of the population."

In the event of the Russian Government's continuing to ignore this "view," the trade unions intend to go over to resolute action. The organization, which has formerly made repeated public declarations of full solidarity with the Russian president, has apparently for the first time shown readiness to exchange agreement with Yeltsin for populist prestige in the population's eyes. This is food for thought in itself. And S. Khramov, cochairman of the alternative trade union association "Sotsprof," assessing the change in the situation, also noted the heightened danger of a consolidated stance by the FNPR and the conservatively inclined leadership of certain state enterprises. In the guise of social protection of the population, he said, this alliance could begin to struggle quite persistently either for the restoration of the old distributive system, or for a too gradual reform of the economy.

On 14 January the FNPR is holding a telephone conference with Russia's regional trade union organizations. According to I. Klochkov, a situation that is close to explosive has now developed in 25 major industrial regions. Their representatives will be given priority at the conference, where it is planned to decide how far the "collective protest actions" on 17 January will go.

"If we are forced to," I. Klochkov said, "we will name specific individuals whom we do not want to see in the Russian Government. If the government does not make concessions, it simply will not be allowed to function."

Well, at least that is clearly put.

Government To Purchase Food at Market Prices

OW1301224392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Under President Yeltsin's decree, agricultural workers are expected this year to sell to the state 35% of the total grain yield, 45% of cattle-breeding products, 30% of oil seeds, and 25% of potatoes, sugar beet and vegetables. Family farms will be required to sell no more than 25% of the produce they put out.

Food purchases will be made at real market prices on contracts to be concluded early this year. Refusal to conclude or failure to fulfill contracts may lead to fines as large as the worth of unsupplied produce.

In 1991, Russia's collective and state farms sold to the state reserve, the main source of food supplies for the republic's population, only 23% of the harvested grain, 30% of potatoes, and about 80% of cattle-breeding products, which was considerably less than in the previous years. Until 1992 all food purchases were made at fixed prices.

Burbulis Cited on Reforms, Social Protection

LD1201185592 Moscow TASS in English 2143 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—In the forthcoming days the Russian leadership will work out principles and adopt a resolution on the social protection of students and schoolchildren, Russian First Vice Premier Gennadiy Burbulis said today at a meeting with participants in the all-Russian conference of heads of territorial and regional public education departments, rectors of pedagogical institutes and universities.

Burbulis called attention to the fact that the Russian Government realises "political danger" of denying support for this social group in the period of the liberalisation of prices. He also spoke about the scientific and technical equipment of Russia's educational establishments and about the creation of the Russian Academy of Pedagogical Sciences.

A major part of his speech dealt with the economic reform. According to Burbulis, "its main task is to convince the population of the Republic that the reforms are vitally needed and can be put into effect, and to get people interested in them." It is also important "to change the system of interests of the people of Russia." With this in view the government will not manage specific plants, factories and farms, but will "promote the improvement of the distorted motivation of values, which may be observed among the Russian population."

According to Burbulis, one of the tasks facing the reform is the actual changing of the social system. "There is a limit to Communist reforming, and we have reached this limit," he said. "It is impossible to ensure greater labour productivity and a just distribution system for working people on a par with it within the old system of economic and property relations," Burbulis stressed.

Burbulis emphatically rejected recriminations that the Russian Government makes decisions, which do not take into account the interests of the majority of the Republic's population. "There has never been a government in the Soviet period of the Russian history which would uphold the interests of the peoples of Russia as consistently as the present one," he stressed.

Rutskoy Hospitalized for 'Routine' Check

PM1301150092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Untitled report from IZVESTIYA, TASS, RIA, POSTFACTUM, AP column]

[Text] In connection with recent speculation about Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy's state of health, the vice president's apparatus told an INTERFAX correspondent that he is undergoing a routine medical examination [planovoye meditsinskoye obsledovaniye].

A. Rutskoy has not taken a vacation for three years, and doctors insisted that he undergo a full check. However, the vice president is continuing to work on documents, and may leave hospital next week.

'Russian National Revival Party' Established

LD1301221992 Moscow TASS in English 1139 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleskandrova]

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS— "Revival of the Russian nation and of the single, indivisible Russia", "Defence of Russians, no matter where they live"—these are the declared goals of the Russian National Revival Party, one more organisation of a "national-patriotic" hue, which recently appeared on Russia's political scene.

"The new party's immediate political task is to call a representative Russian national assembly to decide matters linked with the coordination of the administration of Russian lands and communities, to break the ground for the creation of a great Russian state with proportional representation in governing bodies of all the peoples wishing to be included in it," chairman of the new party's Moscow Council Dmitriy Merkulov told TASS.

The party, whose first congress was held at the end of last year, was so far joined by only 400 people, while 5,000 are needed to register it with the Russian Justice Ministry. However, the party organisers do not lose hope, believing its membership is bound to grow rapidly. "Today, when the democratic movement is waning, the public is turning its attention to national movements," Merkulov claimed.

The new "patriotic organisation" can hardly be expected to become a large-scale organisation in the foreseeable future, but it is worth noting that the "state-patriotic" wing is gaining strength on the Russian political arena after the collapse of the USSR and due to growing centrifugal tendencies in the Russian Federation.

Anti-Liberalization Rallies Protest Government

OW1301141092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Anti-government and anti-liberalisation rallies were held in different parts of Russia last Sunday [12 January].

The about 300 protesters who gathered in St. Petersburg's Palace Square on the initiative of the Russian Party, spoke in favour of keeping the armed forces undivided, criticized the current economic reforms and accused Yeltsin and Gorbachev of ruining the state. Some of them carried posters reading "Yeltsin, think of the Russian children whom you have doomed to hunger!", "Russians have become outcast in their own homeland through Yeltsin's fault!", and "Army, save and protect the nation!"

About 200 people held a meeting and demonstration in Chelyabinsk on the initiative of the patriotic organization, Great Russia. The speakers said that the government was incapable of dealing with the crisis and urged to renounce the price-liberalisation policy.

At about the same time, a rally was held in Iraktorozavodsk by members of the all-Russia Bolshevik Communist Party and of the Russian Communist Workers' Party. The about 150 demonstrators assailed the economic reforms, and demanded that Boris Yeltsin be re-elected, that the price-liberalisation decree be reversed and that workers' councils be set up at industrial enterprises.

In Krasnodar a meeting against price-rise brought together about 400 participants, most of them pensioners.

The unauthorized rally in Bryansk was against privatization and price liberalisation. The about 200 participants demanded that the persons guilty of ruining the Union be punished.

In Novosibirsk, the Pamyat (Memory) society organized a rally which gathered about 250 people. The demonstrators demanded that Yeltsin and Gorbachev be brought to account for pursuing the policy of privatisation and price-liberalisation, and urged that the stock of the national resources be taken, that all exchanges and cooperatives be eliminated, that the members of the Emergency Committee be freed and that the persecution of the Baltic OMON [special purpose militia detachment] fighters be stopped.

'Single Passport' To Serve at Home, Abroad

PM1301154992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 92 First Edition p 6

[RIA report: "Now a New Passport Too"]

[Text] "The identity document for Russian citizens will, by all accounts, be of equal validity for internal use and for crossing the border," an RIA correspondent was told by Nikolay Kovalenko, chief of the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry Department for Visas, Registration, and Passport Work. "A single passport is economically advantageous and is more in keeping with the spirit of the laws on Russian citizenship and on entry and exit," according to him. The passport is to contain information regarding a Russian citizen's name, date and place of birth, and blood group. It is intended that the passport will be issued to people from the age of 15. The Russian passport will be designed and approved before the end of this year; the actual replacement, however, will take at least three-five years and require considerable financial and technical outlay.

Oil Output Decreases 124 Million Tonnes

LD1301043892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0810 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Remarks by "Mailbag" program announcers Svetlana Yakimenko and Karl Yegorov in response to listeners' letters requesting information on CIS oil and gas production; from the "Mailbag" program]

[Text] [Yegorov] Well, gentlemen, the Commonwealth of Independent States is the biggest producer of oil in the world, and 91 percent of its output comes from Russia, which, however, is highly dependent on other states for its export outlets. Only 28 percent of Russia's oil exports go through Russian ports on the Baltic and the Black Sea, 32 percent through Ukraine, 18 percent through Belarus, and 16 percent through Latvia. The main pipelines carrying gas for export pass through Ukraine and Belarus. This dependence could be a means of significant pressure. Our oil output fell from 624 million tonnes in 1988 to 500 million tonnes last year. Exports fell by nearly 100 million tonnes, to 110 million, in 1991.

[Yakimenko] What are the reasons for decline in output and exports?

[Yegorov] Well, sweet, specialists usually attribute the drop in production to aging oil fields whose yields are declining, to wells that become waterlogged when we try to boost production by injecting water into them, and to a lack of funds for exploration. And, indeed, investments in prospecting have shrunk considerably. A shortage of spare parts has halted the activity of 22,000 wells out of a total of 173,000. The average output per well fell in three years from 4,000 tonnes per year to 3,400 because of a shortage of pumps. And while most of Russia's production is in Siberia, some wells are located in the Tatar, Bashkir, and Udmurt Republics. The disintegration of the former Soviet Union could disrupt the production and export of Soviet oil and gas if strife between some former republics and ethnic groups spreads. However, if the political situation does not worsen, Western aid and the arrival of Western companies could begin to have a beneficial effect, even next year, by contributing to a resumption of output at some of the fields. A number of agreements to achieve this purpose has already been concluded. Exports of gas from the former Soviet Union continued to increase marginally last year to 112 billion cubic meters despite a slight fall in production which totalled 806 billion cubic metres.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Addresses Presidium 13 Jan

Reports on Ryazan Visit

LD1301175492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1518 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] [Announcer] We have been talking about how the Russian Supreme Soviet is resuming its session today. I can imagine those anxious deputies, because the situation in Russia is indeed highly complex. With me now in the studio is my colleague Andrey Nikiforov. What is happening, then?

[Nikiforov] I have just arrived from the Russian White House. What should I talk about first? What comes to mind first? There are various rumors circulating around the leaderships of both the Russian parliament and government. For example, INTERFAX and TASS have reported that, according to sources close to the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin supposedly will quit as head of government next week. Among the deputies a rumor is going around to the effect that various candidates are being considered for the post of government chairman. Rutskoy is among them, so are Svyatoslav Fedorov and Sobchak. Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, is also being named. Actually, do you know what these rumors are leaning toward? It is supposedly because the leadership of the Chechen Republic has decided to recall its deputies from the Supreme Soviet. So now ...

[Announcer, interrupting] That includes Khasbulatov.

[Nikiforov] That is right, and the story is that some kind of way is being sought to keep Khasbulatov at the helm. He categorically denied these insinuations today at the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet, where the proceedings are probably continuing now. And there are other rumors which could probably have been refuted. INTERFAX also, for example, reports that Ruslan Khasbulatov, at a meeting today with a delegation from the upper house of the Italian chamber, said that the situation is such that either the president might propose replacing the government, which is incapable, or the Supreme Soviet itself might do this.

Right then. I should say that I listened very carefully to what Ruslan Khasbulatov was saying today at the Presidium, and I have to say loud and clear that the question of the government was not discussed in such black and white terms, at least, not at the Presidium. That is absolutely clear. They were only talking about how in the current situation certain changes to the government might be considered....

[Announcer, interrupting] That is only natural.

[Nikiforov] Right, it is only natural, let us put it that way. On the whole, most of his speech was a kind of report on his two-day visit to Ryazan oblast.

[Announcer] Do you have a recording?

[Nikiforov] I do. Let us play it through.

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] What we have here is not, of course, liberalization of prices. It is simply price increases, and moreover completely uncontrolled, anarchic, ungoverned and unregulated. This is something that has happened in no other state. Take this factor. We, with the consent of the Supreme Soviet, the president and government, said that we will retain regulated prices on 12 kinds of food, including milk, butter and others. I will not go on about all the changes, but what is the result? In Ryazan, a liter of milk costs 17 rubles [R]. Draw your own conclusions. The local authorities say that letting prices go means letting them go completely, because they cannot do anything about it anyway. They say, we were allocated R35 million by the government for subsidies. But to realistically subsidize products, we need R3 billion from you. This is just one example. And against this kind of background, who can talk about a deficit-free budget? Judge for yourselves.

Here is an example of the most terrible of things. Take a workforce brimming with optimism, a workforce of women. I mean the (Ryazanskiy Dvor). It lifts your heart, they sew such excellent products. You ask, how is life? Fine, they say; no complaints. We fully support the Supreme Soviet, they say, the president, give Boris Nikolayevich our regards, we love you, respect you, watch you all the time. Okay. So we chatted and chatted. So what is your factory canteen like? We do not use the canteen, they say. Why not? Because lunch costs R18. Lunch costs R18! So they have stopped using the canteen. This was something we did not plan for or expect.

I also visited some military factories. Two military factories are already at a standstill. Moreover, they are plants that turn out the latest, super-modern aircraft. They have stopped work. They received an instruction not to operate at more than 15 percent of capacity. I do not know which genius did this without us knowing, and who was entitled to issue such instructions. The result? The most modern of equipment is standing idle, first of all. The workers are leaving. Engineers are drifting away. Equipment just standing there. This is destruction of industrial capacity. Who will answer for this? Who draws up such a production program? Where did this program come from? [end recording]

[Nikiforov] That was how Khasbulatov summed up his visit to Ryazan oblast. Incidentally, I had a chat today with his first deputy, Sergey Filatov, who was also on that trip. His conclusions were virtually identical. So what is the republican leadership, the Supreme Soviet, going to do about this in the near future? The conclusion is that tax legislation has to be sorted out urgently, immediately. Because it is already clear that entrepreneurs and enterprises are being squeezed by taxes so much that there is no chance of goods reaching the sales counters.

Next, they have have to return to pension legislation and at the same time, incidentally, to military pensions. And on the whole, to show some care for the Army, because we have no government department that looks after the military's needs. That is the opinion of the Russian leadership. And that rounds off my report.

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 13 January adds that when meeting the Italian parliament delegation today, "Ruslan Khasbulatov qualified the present Russian government as incapable of action. He considered that the president's decision to head the government was not his most felicitous decision. At such a difficult time he should not have tied himself to the government. Having become premier, Boris Yeltsin tied himself to the policy of a government which was not only unsuccessful but extremely unqualified, Khasbulatov said."]

Cites Possible Government Changes

LD1301193692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Report by Svetlana Sorokina from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Submerged by the debate over the results of the Russian Government's activities and the problems of relations between the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], we have tended to forget about the Russian parliament. Nonetheless, to a large extent the direction, speed, and success of the reforms depend on its position. Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, has just been to Ryazan Oblast, where, as he put it, he said little and did a great deal of listening. Ruslan Imranovich evidently brought back vivid impressions. In the morning at a meeting with a delegation from the Italian Senate he said that parliament will endeavor to do everything possible to provide legislative backing for the government's reforming activities. In such a complicated situation, a government might, or might not, cope with its obligations. In the latter event, the question of reorganizing the government is only natural. At 1500 Khasbulatov addressed a sitting of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

[Correspondent Tatyana Khudobina] The Russian Government's present policy does not correspond to the realities of economic life, said Ruslan Khasbulatov today at a sitting of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet, reporting back on his trip to Ryazan Oblast. He called on the Presidium to draw its own conclusions at the organizational level and to make rapid and determined alterations to current government policy.

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] [passage omitted] It is time to make rapid and determined alterations. I request that work be done on the immediate reduction of taxes. We have already suffocated the producer of goods, put his head in a noose, and a most dismal attitude to government policy is developing. We have to draw some conclusions at the organizational level. [end recording]

[Announcer] [passage omitted] Khasbulatov today said that he sees nothing dreadful in one government replacing another, for it is the president and parliament who are the guarantors of the stability of the structures of state. Incidentally, the Presidium of the parliament was alarmed to note that at the many meetings which have swept the cities of Russia posters have been seen demanding not only the resignation of the government but that of the Supreme Soviet as well.

Denies Rumored Appointment

LD1301164192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1601 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Report by TASS parliamentary correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan (TASS)—Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian parliament, has refuted rumors about his possible appointment as prime minister.

Speaking today at the first session of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet since the parliamentary recess, he stated that these insinuations are being made as an enforced measure. It is apparently necessary in order to "rescue" the chairman of the Supreme Soviet who, as Russian people's deputy from Chechen-Ingushetia, has been recalled by the Chechen parliament.

Ruslan Khasbulatov stated that no decisions of the Chechen parliament on Russian territory have force and in this context there is no need to "rescue" him.

The leader of the Russian parliament also believes that, instead of the declared liberalization of prices, what is really happening is that "they are being hiked in an anarchic and uncontrolled manner." The government's promises to control the prices of basic foodstuffs are not being fulfilled, he stated.

In these circumstances, the chairman of the Russian parliament described the plans to liquidate state and collective farms and to carry out the privatization of farms in the republic by the spring as "monstrous stupidity."

The chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet has instructed the appropriate committees to review the rates of taxation established by the government. The taxes must be lowered immediately, he stressed.

Says Reform Decision 'Senseless'

OW1301185892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 13 Jan 92

Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet (parliament), described the government's decisions on the implementation of the economic reform as "utterly senseless, divorced from the realities of economic life." Addressing the Supreme Soviet Presidium on Monday [13 January] about his swing through Ryazan region, he said that what he saw was evidence of "an uncontrolled anarchic and runaway price rise," not price liberalization. Khasbulatov said that the work of the government needed "a thorough analysis as to its organization."

Thus, he blamed the government for having exceeded the ceiling of regulated prices of basic foodstuffs, the sharp trimming of military orders causing "the state-of-the-art equipment" to stay idle and a line on "the destruction of collective and state farms" that, Khasbulatov says, affects first of all prosperous agricultural businesses.

Khasbulatov called on the Russian Supreme Soviet to immediately alter the taxation laws to low taxes and introduce stringent controls on cash flows and the distribution of cash.

Khasbulatov also made a statement "in connection with the rumors about the position of price minister, which allegedly may be filled by Rutskoy, Fyodorov, Sobchak and me, which may help me to defy the Chechen Republic's decision recalling me."

The newly-created Chechen Republic announced the recall of Russia's people's deputies elected on its territory. One of them is Khasbulatov.

He called "to put an end to all rumors" connected with his name and emphasized that he was "among the leaders who never and on no occasion would cling to their seats." He emphasized that "no decisions of the Chechen Republic had force."

Presidium Approves Control, Budget Chamber

OW1401065492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov said Monday [13 January] at the sitting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet that the entire taxation system would shortly be revised by the parliament aiming to slash taxes. Khasbulatov made this brief statement when Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the budget commission, had the floor on another matter.

The Presidium passed a ruling under which the Supreme Soviet was setting up a control and budget chamber that is not accountable to the Russian President's staff and the government.

Another ruling restricts the President's power to appoint parliamentarians to the government or other positions of leadership. From now on, such appointments can only be made with the consent of the Supreme Soviet.

Parliament Agenda for 15 Jan Previewed

Khasbulatov Cites Agenda

LD1301141192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The day after tomorrow, 15 January, the Russian Supreme Soviet is to meet. The immediate prospects for the parliament's work were the theme of a conversation between our special correspondent Nikolay Artemyev and Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

[Begin recording] [Artemyev] Ruslan Imranovich, the session of the Russian Supreme Soviet resumes on 15 January. What do you expect from this stage of its work, and what kind of draft legislation will be examined first and foremost?

[Khasbulatov] There will be a very large number of bills, first a continuation of the series on taxation, financial, and economic matters, the aim being to consolidate them of course. Regarding privatization, to be honest, the government has not found it easy to carry out its decision, embodied in a Supreme Soviet ruling. But we have been trying to provide at least some kind of guidance. Initially it was intended that privatization matters would be tackled by the government sometime around March. But we insisted that these two processes had to be merged. So, there should be a whole package on privatization, of course.

Then there are pensions, we have to look at them. We tried to examine the pension issue during the previous sitting, but the bill had been poorly drafted and we put it aside. And, of course, there is the long-awaited law on oblast and kray soviets, so this will be examined as well. On the whole there is a great deal along these lines. Regarding further development of the system of authority and government, there is a package of laws on this, and another dealing with economic reform, reform of the financial system. And a third package to do with social welfare, i.e. implementation of social policy. [end recording]

TASS Outlines Agenda

LD1301225192 Moscow TASS in English 2231 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—The Presidium of the Russian parliament has decided to bring up an analysis of the socio-economic situation in the republic in view of the liberalisation of prices for discussion at the parliament's session on January 15, the first one after winter holidays.

On Thursday [16 January] the parliament session is expected to be addressed by President Boris Yeltsin. A budget monitoring chamber under the parliament's authority has been set up by a Presidium resolution. The functions of the chamber will be to analyse bills and monitor budget performance.

The parliament will also consider measures to normalise cash circulation in the Russian Federation in the first quarter of 1992.

A resolution to this effect envisages the suspension of bank credits to the population and settlements between enterprises by written orders.

It is planned to issue small-size and forgery-proof coins with denominations of one to five, ten and fifty roubles. The coins will be made from light-weight alloys. It has been decided to launch into circulation cheques from January 20. The cheques will be a tender along with money.

A Presidium resolution on Vnesheconombank (USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Relations) recognises Russia's succession as regards the obligations of the former Union. Vnesheconombank's charter and reserve funds, including buildings, facilities and other property are transfirmed to the possession of Russia while the bank itself becomes an agent to service the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union.

The Presidium has submitted treaties on the principles of inter-state relations between Russia and Lithuania and between Russia and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to the parliament for ratification.

The work of the Russian parliament commission for inquiry into the causes and circumstances of the coup in the USSR has been extended for another month.

The commission, formed five months ago, has provided the parliament with convincing proofs of the anticonstitutional activities of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, the KGB (Soviet State Security Committee) and a number of departments and organisations.

Commission Chairman Lev Ponomarev emphasised the need to carry out an appropriate judicial investigation and work out effective mechanisms for parliamentary monitoring of governing agencies.

At the same time evaluations of the commission's work varied at the Presidium meeting. The commission's work was strongly criticised in particular by parliament chief Ruslan Khasbulatov who said he did not see any positive result in the activities of the commission "who submitted, virtually, a reference note which is full of declarations".

And still, the Presidium members agreed that the parliamentary commission's work should be extended.

Yeltsin To Address 16 Jan Session

OW1401034692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin will address a session of the republican Supreme Soviet at 10:00, January 16, on the socio-economic situation in the republic in connection with price liberalization. This decision was taken by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. The January 17 parliament session plans to consider the ratification of a treaty with Lithuania on January 17, and on January 23 and 24, those with Latvia and Kyrgyzstan respectively.

The parliament is also to take a decision on the normalization of the cash situation in the first quarter of 1992. The bill suggests suspending extending loans to the population, except for farmers and lessors in agriculture. All enterprises and agencies, irrespective of the form of ownership, are asked to conduct financial operations by transfer. The government is instructed to provide for the issue of large-denomination banknotes, 1, 5, 10 and 50-ruble coins, registered cheques and blanks of promissory notes, and to set ceilings on the value of money transfers, letters of credit, cheques and deposits coming from the former Union republics if these republics introduce similar restrictions. Russia's Central Bank is instructed in the same ruling to raise interest rates on all kinds of deposits at least 200%.

The Supreme Soviet's ruling exempts trade union enterprises and organizations from profits tax in the fourth quarter of 1991.

Khasbulatov Interviewed on Economy, Federation

LD1001144192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1305 GMT on 8 January carries a live 53-minute studio interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, who answers listeners' questions read by an unidentified moderator. The first 15 minutes, in which Khasbulatov answers questions on price deregulation, the armed forces, and national currencies, are largely unmonitorable. Reception is poor for the remainder of the program.

Emphasizing the need for financial incentives in the context of the freeing of prices, Khasbulatov states that he believed that the government intended, in the context of price deregulation, to supply consumer goods to the market from its reserves. It now turns out that no such plans existed at all, he says. However, we must not lose faith in the reform process and concentrate on proper distribution and control over this distribution. This is because "the decline in production within the consumer sector does not exceed 10-12 percent, whereas 80 percent of goods have vanished", he states.

He adds: We must produce goods and services faster and they must be of better quality. The presidential decree on agrarian reform comes in for praise - it will be a stimulus to carry out the land reform. People must be allowed to work as they wish and dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit. If free peasants wish to form collective farms, it is their right so to do. The main source of enhancing our prosperity and of normal economic development lies within ourselves and dollar intervention regretfully has not happened.

Khasbulatov adds that there is no stable, purposeful single economic policy: Silayev had two economic programs, now we have a third in the space of 18 months. That is why foreign businessmen are not ready to invest their capital in our economy and foreign assistance will be just as powerless to change things as the West German economy has turned out to be when confronted with the ruins of the GDR economy.

Khasbulatov goes on to repeat his recently stated standpoint that he has no intention of responding to demands to recall him as a deputy of the Chechen republic. Expanding on the theme of Checheno-Ingushetia, he said: "Unfortunately, what is happening in Checheno-Ingushetia is, in effect, a continuation of the policies of the former partocratic regime. On several occasions I criticized the previous leaders, and the former leader Zavgayev, and what the current rulers are now doing is a direct continuation of that same 'Zavgayevism', of that same partocratic line, only in a worse form, because bribery and corruption have intensified in the recent period, physical violence is on the rise, there are breaches of human rights in the most flagrant forms, crime has risen and at the same time people are suffering, people's material position has deteriorated. I receive, literally every day, hundreds of letters from the republic, and frankly, I feel very deeply for the fate of our republic."

In reply to a question as to whether the Supreme Soviet intends to adopt a law on liability for failure to implement the laws and decrees of the President and the resolutions of Russia, Khasbulatov says: "This was actually my idea, to adopt such a law, and moreover, on bringing officials to criminal account for failure to implement the decisions and resolutions of Congresses and the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. Such a law is currently being elaborated at the Supreme Soviet, and I hope that it will be passed. I actually had in mind, when I was putting this idea, that we have a very great number of laws, and moreover, very good laws, and people complain, and we can see for ourselves, that they are generally undermined, not carried out. Very often they are not carried out by the government itself, they are not carried out at the level of the Russian republics, at the level of oblasts and krays. Sometimes decisions taken are even placed in doubt."

Asked whether there will be a law on combating speculation in Russia, Khasbulatov draws a distinction between actual criminal speculation and normal actions for a market economy which used to be considered criminal under previous Soviet legislation.

The next listener asks when the Russian parliament will confirm the budget for 1992. Khasbulatov says: "If I am not mistaken we examined the question of the budget presented by the government on 26 December, but unfortunately we were only presented with general guidelines, budget guidelines, and we took a decision that the government is obliged to present us with a budget before 15 January. And so, we must examine the budget literally during the very first weeks after the session begins work. As far as I know we will only be looking at the first quarter. As concerns this year as a whole, then here again, there will, perhaps, be more or less detailed examination of general budget guidelines. The situation we now have in this sphere is too ill-defined, and the government has not made preparations. It was clearly hoping that parliament would not demand a budget and that it would be able to do anything it liked, and it did not manage to prepare a budget initiative and budget guidelines, carefully set out, oriented towards some kind of plan or forecast for socio-economic development, indicators for industry and so."

Next, Khasbulatov says he is against closures of foreign correspondents' posts and cutting the number of embassies. Replying to a question about round tables—when will they appear so as to avoid conflict in the Supreme Soviet—Khasbulatov, amused, says that if round tables could indeed be of help here, he would occupy his time completely with setting up such round table talks. He adds that deputies vary and arguments are inevitable. People want more action and less talk.

Replying to a question about his attitude toward the decision to set up the Don Cossack republic, Khasbulatov says: "My attitude toward the setting up, on the territory of the Russian Federation, of any new republics, no matter what form it takes, is negative. There is a state—the Russian Federation. Historically, national state entities exist on the territory of the Russian Federation; the autonomous republics. Well, taking account of the tremendous drive of the peoples of these republics and also the fact that the word 'autonomy' has, to a certain extent, been discredited, well, they dropped the word 'autonomy'. But to set up any sort of new republics on the territory of the oblasts and krays is, after all - well, our inhabitants disagree with that. And, apart from that, how many states do we need on the territory of one state?"

Khasbulatov says that proper government and expanded rights are needed. The process of genuinely democrtatic changes of the country has only just got underway and we must give more economic, political, and any other rights to the individual, so that he may be free. "This, then, is the main task, rather than the setting up on the Rusian Federation's territory some kind of quasi-feudal principalities, no matter what they might be called.

Asked about the situation of Russians living in other states and how Russia would monitor their situation, Khasbulatov says that right from when the Russian Federation started concluding agreements with the Baltic States its position has always been that "it is necessary to create a legal state instrument to intervene in the position of Russian-speaking people. That is, in concluding such treaties, and on the basis of international practice, we create an instrument to monitor the position of people. Of course, let me say straight out that in this we shall use, and we have used, economic factors and the circumstance that the Russian Federation is a rich power."

Russia's current economic difficulties will soon be overcome, he adds, "so we shall apply very strong influence to help our fellow citizens and greatly improve their position. In any event we shall not permit any infringement on their rights. In any event they will not have any less rights than any person of the native nationality. That is our task. In accordance with international pacts on rights, every citizen should have equal rights. And I personally shall regard any infringement, any attempt to move away from this practice as a direct action directed against the Russian state and we shall act accordingly."

On the subject of pensions, Khasbulatov says that they are being kept under review.

In response to a question about the political situation in Moscow, Khasbulatov says that the Supreme Soviet has enough to cope with without concerning itself with such matters, but if the Mayor's office and Moscow soviet do not resolve their conflict they will both be dissolved and direct government rule will be imposed.

A pensioner asks how people are to survive in present conditions. Khasbulatov says that there will be no mass hunger but the problem is to prevent the economic decline. "I believe that we shall have a very difficult period for at least six months. I think that from the second half of the year we shall begin a slow levelling out and a more or less stable development," he states. It is necessary to turn the economy round from being orientated towards heavy industry towards a consumer orientation. This process had not even begun during Gorbachev's years in power, Khasbulatov concludes.

Khasbulatov, Businessmen Discuss Market

PM1301145792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 92 First Edition p

[Vladimir Kuznetsov report: "Traders Ready To Lower Prices"]

[Text] It is now the second week since we have had free prices, but goods have not appeared in the stores. A meeting between Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Russian businessmen was devoted to analyzing the causes of this situation.

The empty shelves of last year and this have served to dampen the shock—people put up with them out of habit. But this forebearance will not last long, according to some forecasts. Instead of starting to privatize the economy, which would innexorably have led to the natural breakup of ministerial structures, we began by destroying them. As a result control over the economy has been lost almost entirely. It would have been possible, for example, to offer as security to Western banks the rare-earth metals which are not so badly needed by us today, it was said at the meeting. It would, of course, have been necessary to consult in advance with specialists, but, as emerged during discussion, the government's geological service has been disbanded. The situation with state trade is even worse. Experts estimate that Prodintorg [Association for the Export and Import of Food Goods] buys up chicken drumsticks at a price that is 2.5 times that at which they could be acquired in the West. In other words, on giving our acutely scarce dollars to the state trade system we obtain 2-3 times fewer goods from abroad than we could.

The new tax system, which smothers businessmen who simply have no interest in producing goods or expanding output, was also discussed. But the market has to be supplied with goods right now, and this requires urgent commodity intervention. Even if you get exorbitant prices, the shelves of the stores must be filled. How is this to be done? Khasbulatov promised to lower taxes and speed up the process of privatization.

Moscow will have goods worth 300 million rubles [R] on 15 January. But when this plan was originally costed, $1 was worth R56, whereas it is now worth R150! It was intended to sell these goods at a price six or seven times below market prices, that is to say, a pair of jeans would cost R230 and a pair of trainers R300. The situation has changed now. But we are ready nevertheless, the businessmen stated, to sell these goods at the declared prices on 15 January, provided we are given guarantees against inflation. And promises to look into this were given there.

The problem of control over markets was also broached: In Moscow, for example, almost all the markets are effectively "under the protection of criminal groups." "We will establish control," stated Khasbulatov. "If our law enforcement agencies cannot cope, we will replace them with the military."

One of the central problems discussed during the conversation concerned increasing quotas for the export of raw materials intended for state needs which could serve as security for Western businessmen for the credits they assign. In this regard it was resolved to instruct the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministries of Trade and the Economy to examine this question in the next few days.

The meeting was wound up, and although it was not possible to solve every question, agreement has already been reached on certain of them. It was announced that the next meeting will be held in one week's time.

Interstate Treaty With Estonia Ratified

PM1401102192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 92 First Edition p 5

["Resolution of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Ratifying the Treaty on the Foundations of Interstate Relations between the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and the Estonian Republic"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. To ratify the Treaty on the Foundations of Interstate Relations between the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and the Estonian Republic signed on 12 January 1991 in the city of Tallinn.

2. To create the conditions necessary for the development of good-neighborly and equitable relations between Russia and Estonia as two sovereign states and to instruct the Russian Federation government to embark

forthwith on direct talks with the Estonian Republic government to conclude Russian-Estonian treaties and agreements based on the provisions of the Treaty of 12 January 1991.

3. To instruct the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry to prepare within two months a draft bilateral agreement on questions of citizenship and ownership stemming from the Treaty on the Foundations of Interstate Relations between the RSFSR and the Estonian Republic.

4. That the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry is to conduct talks on changing the line of the border between the Russian Federation and the Estonian Republic only after this question has been examined by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

5. That the Russian Federation organs of executive power are to proceed in their relations with the Estonian Republic government on the premise that in the sphere of human rights and freedoms, including the rights of national minorities, the norms of international law have priority over national legislation for all states belonging to the CSCE. The Russian Federation organs of executive power are required to seek full implementation of the relevant articles of the Treaty with the Estonian Republic on human rights and freedoms.

6. To proceed from the premise that the Russian Federation intends to offer protection to its citizens living on the territory of the Estonian Republic. The Russian Federation will equally encourage protection on the part of the Estonian Republic to its citizens living on the territory of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry is to carry out talks expeditiously with the Estonian side on creating a mechanism for reciprocal protection and is to report on the results of those talks to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet within two months in order that Russian-Estonian relations as a whole may be discussed.

7. A group of Russian people's deputies is to be involved in the talks with the Estonian Republic as part of the Russian delegation.

[signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet
House of the Soviets of Russia
Moscow, 26 December 1991

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Arrives in Bryansk for Visit

Situation in Bryansk Viewed

LD1301230192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Bryansk and its oblast are awaiting the arrival of the president of Russia planned for 14 January. An express public opinion poll conducted by the public sociological center showed that approximately 60 percent of the town's residents link with this arrival hopes for more efficient measures for the social protection of the working people in the period of transition to a market economy. More than one fourth of those asked do not expect any improvement in the standard of living in the next 12-18 months.

In the southwestern rayons of the oblast, which suffered as a result of the Chernobyl disaster—more than 500,000 people live on the territory contaminated with radiation—an absolute majority of the population are connecting the president's long promised visit to the ecological disaster zone with their hopes for additional, effective measures for the social protection of the victims of the Chernobyl accident and the acceleration of the drawing up and implementation of the program to eliminate the consequences of the accident.

Moreover, every day numerous handwritten leaflets are pasted up signed by the hitherto unknown Russkoye public movement. The leaflets express protest against the liberalization of prices and contain an appeal to welcome Boris Yeltsin with a march of the hungry.

Tension is growing in the relations between the new administration of the oblast and a large group of deputies of the oblast soviet who are dissatisfied with the cadre policy being conducted by the head of the administration. Today the chairman of the oblast soviet received a letter signed by more than 50 deputies demanding that a routine session of the oblast soviet should be convened. It is expected that, in keeping with the regulations, the session will be convened on 16-17 January. Today it is proposed that the attitude to the actions of the head of the oblast should be made clear.

Chernobyl Issues Focus of Visit

OW1401130292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1215 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced upon his arrival at Bryansk airport on Tuesday [14 January] that he would devote this working visit to the discussion of Chernobyl-related issues, because the appropriate government program "is clearly not implemented properly." Replying to questions from journalists he expressed regret that the money earmarked for the cleanup of the nuclear disaster was not used effectively, for which he blamed the local authorities. If it had been a question of financing, he stressed, the government could be held responsible, but in this case "Moscow cannot follow the construction of every house or the resettlement of every family." He also criticized the Chernobyl Committee for its failure to protect the people in Bryansk region.

The president said that during his meetings with local public activists and officials he would also discuss reforms and social problems. He said that the whole country was in dire straits following the freeing of prices.

Immediately after his arrival in Byransk President Yeltsin took a helicopter to Novozybkov, one of the areas most seriously contaminated as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. He is expected to visit a clothes' factory, a cooperative farm and a rural hospital. The Russian leader will then return to Bryansk where he will meet with local administrators.

St. Petersburg Awaits Yeltsin Visit

OW1401040292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] St. Petersburg authorities made public the program of a working visit by President Yeltsin to St. Petersburg. It is expected that Yeltsin will come to St. Petersburg on Tuesday [14 January] evening or Wednesday [15 January] morning and will have working visits till Wednesday evening.

Aleksandr Veretyn, director of the City Hall's press center, told IF [INTERFAX] that the schedule includes meetings with the administration and workers of the Baltic Shipping Company, the Kirov factory and the milk factory. Yeltsin also plans to address the plenary session of the municipal soviet and to conduct closed-door talks with Sobchak, St. Petersburg's mayor. According to the City Hall's press-service, the president wants to know the sentiments of the St. Petersburg population and to analyze the economic strategy of the St. Petersburg administration. It is important to discuss the construction in the Bay of Finland of a Russian Baltic port.

Chechen, Ingush Seek Border Dispute Solution

OW1301190392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of the Chechen and Ingush people who met in Groznyy on January 13, suggested the creation of a conciliation commission to seek a compromise division of Checheno-Inushetia into the Chechen Republic and Ingushetia. Tension mounted between the Chechens and the Ingushis after the Chechen parliament decided on January 9 to annex the Sunzha and part of Malgobek region to the Chechen republic. On the morning of January 10 the authorities of the Ingush-populated regions—Sunzha, Malgobek and Nazran districts—introduced emergency rule.

A rally protesting against the Chechen parliament's ruling on the border between Chechnya and Ingushetia went into its third day on Monday in the district center of the Sunzha area, the town of Ordzhonikodzevskaya.

International Affairs

Further Reportage on Black Sea Fleet Situation

Results of Talks Discussed

LD1301190492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1730 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Report from Kiev by correspondent Vladimir Sokolov]

[Text] A news conference in Kiev today was devoted to the results of the talks held in Kiev on 11 January between the state delegations of the Ukraine and Russian Federation on military and political questions. The news conference was given by Viktor Antonov, Ukrainian state minister for questions of defense and the military-industrial complex, and Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General Konstantin Morozov. It turns out that there were differences on only one thing: Should this Fleet belong to the strategic forces under the united command of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] or is it being completely transferred to the jurisdiction of the Ukraine?

The communique on the results of the talks handed to journalists states that, as agreed at the talks, the Armed Forces stationed on the territory of the Ukraine include the grouping of the strategic forces of the CIS with the exception of a part of the forces of the Black Sea Fleet which will form part of the armed forces of the Ukraine. Note: part of the forces of the Black Sea Fleet.

The Minister of Defense, Konstantin Morozov, explained:

[Begin Morozov recording] To be included in the composition of the strategic forces will be the forces of strategic nuclear weapons, other formations and units carrying out strategic missions, including the part of the forces of the Black Sea Fleet designated for carrying out strategic missions and armed with nuclear weapons. [end recording]

The minister also announced that the Black Sea Fleet does not carry strategic nuclear weapons and the tactical ones will be gradually removed from it because the Ukraine is remaining a non- nuclear state. The construction of new ships at Ukrainian yards including aircraft carriers and heavy cruisers will be suspended except for those which have reached a high degree of readiness. But the modernization of the Fleet, and incidentally all the other Armed Forces, will be continued. The question of the military oath of the personnel of the strategic part of the Fleet and also of other strategic forces will be resolved separately.

Halting of Pay Denied

OW1301190692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet's press office has denied a statement by Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Igor Kasatonov that Ukraine has stopped paying salaries to the Fleet's personnel.

According to the press office, on January 3 the Ukrainian Cabinet earmarked 350 million rubles for salaries to the Black Sea Fleet's personnel in the first quarter of the year.

Crimean Presidium Expresses Concern

LD1301215292 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea has expressed concern over the situation which has developed around the Black Sea Fleet. In the address it adopted, the situation was described as one that could lead to a split in the army and confrontation between peoples. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea called on all the leaders of the independent states which make up the Commonwealth to conclusively decide the fate of the Black Sea Fleet by way of negotiations.

Defense Group Visits Fleet

PM1401112992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by Captain Second Rank V. Pasyakin: "Ukrainian Defense Ministry Working Group Visits Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] A Ukrainian Defense Ministry working group led by Lieutenant General I. Bizhan met the Black Sea Fleet command authorities 11 January. Both sides stated their positions regarding the Fleet's immediate future and its subordination.

Obviously, the working group's arrival in Sevastopol was in some ways a reaction to Admiral I. Kasatonov's rebukes directed at Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General K. Morozov who, despite invitations, was unable to find an opportunity to visit the Fleet and get to know its structures and problems.

The working group spent some time with the Fleet's largest task force and in the training center. Heated discussions took place. No consensus was found for many problems, and in any case dialogue was useless.

Meanwhile, the situation in the fleet remains complex. The oath of loyalty to Ukraine was sworn in the brigade of naval border guards on Sunday, 12 January. Forty-eight percent of conscripted personnel did not take the Ukrainian oath.

Czech Government Delegation Arrives in Kiev

3-Day Visit Planned

LD0901155792 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 1500 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Ukraine—A Czech Government delegation led by Petr Pithart arrived by air in Kiev today for a three-day visit to Ukraine. In the afternoon members of the delegation are to have talks with Prime Minister Vitold Fokin and Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko. Members of the delegation will also meet with representatives of corresponding departments. Petr Pithart is accompanied in Kiev by Deputy Prime Minister Jan Strasky, Minister of Industry Jan Vrba, deputy ministers of agriculture and finance, and the minister for agricultural policy and development.

Preliminary Results Cited

LD1201223192 Prague CSTK in English 1551 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Kiev Jan 10 (CSTK correspondent)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk today told Czech Premier Petr Pithart that Ukraine would take quick action to solve problems of trade with Czechoslovakia after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Kravchuk said it will take several months to establish new trade relations between the successor states of the former Soviet Union. Only then will it be possible to establish new trade contacts with foreign states, he said.

The former Soviet Union's debts to Czechoslovakia total about 5,000 million USD [U.S. dollars], but its successor states have not yet determined how this debt is to be distributed.

Kravchuk also promised to find a way to return the property of Volhynian Czechs (ethnic Czechs living on Ukrainian territory since the 19th century) who have recently left the Chernobyl area to live in Czechoslovakia.

Kravchuk told CSTK Ukraine supports the creation of a free economic zone in Subcarpathian Rus. The area was part of eastern Czechoslovakia before World War II and was ceded to the Soviet Union in 1945. Special economic status for the region would soon be included in the Ukrainian constitution, he said.

Pithart is in the second day of a three-day visit to Ukraine and is accompanied by a high-level delegation of Czech Republic officials.

In an interview with CSTK, Kravchuk said his country's relations with Russia are worsening and accused President Boris Yeltsin and other high officials of imperialist thinking.

"Boris Yeltsin, (Russian Parliament Chairman) Ruslan Khasbulatov and (St Petersburg Mayor) Anatoliy Sobchak and other Russian politicians must get cured of thinking in the spirit of an empire", he said. "This is a bad habit, which the Russians must give up".

Kravchuk said that Russia has no right to claim exclusive control over the Black Sea Fleet, as it is not, he said, the sole successor state of the former Soviet Union.

"The Soviet Union existed for 70 years and all the things of value that were created are to be shared by all the nations (of the former union)", he said.

"We are patient, and we do not lack in statesmenlike thought or in tact. However, we cannot allow ourselves to be considered a colony".

Kravchuk earlier told Pithart that as strategic weapons would remain under joint Commonwealth control, Ukraine's army would be smaller than if it had to defend Ukrainian territory alone.

Pithart today concluded an agreement with Ukrainian officials on compensation for property left on Ukrainian territory by the group of some 800 Volhynian Czechs who relocated to Czechoslovakia last year.

The total rouble value of their property, together with savings, will be paid to them at the rate of 1 rouble to 10 Czechoslovak crowns.

Ukraine agreed to deliver goods to Czechoslovakia equal to the value of their property.

"This was the most elegant decision that could be found", said a spokesman for the Czech delegation, Vladimir Zelezny.

Pithart today also met with opposition members of Ukraine's parliament, including members of the Popular Movement of Ukraine, or "Rukh", and of the Ukrainian Republican Party.

Pithart told journalists later today Ukraine is winning credit in the world by pursuing transformation without any violence, and praised the calm of its leaders and their sound self-confidence. As for economic talks, he said it would have been better to hold them later when the situation gets clearer. He nevertheless characterized the visit as successful.

Jan Vrba, Czech minister of industry, said binding rules for trade between the Czech Republic and Ukraine in 1992 should be set by mid-February. He said he agreed with Ukrainian Economics Minister Anatoliy Minchenko to immediately work out a list of items for bilateral trade which should be followed, after its approval by experts, by a banking agreement on payments. The Czech delegation's visit to Ukraine, which started yesterday, will end Saturday [18 January] with the signing of a joint statement.

Diplomatic Relations With Sweden Established

LD1301200292 Moscow TASS in English 1924 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trotseko—TASS]

[Text] Kiev January 13 TASS— Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas arrived here today for an official visit.

Later in the day she had a meeting with President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine. She was told about current processes in Ukraine and fields of activity in which, in the opinion of the Ukrainian side, Ukrainian-Swedish contacts may develop most successfully.

Kravchuk highly appreciated the signing of a document on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Sweden. The president of Ukraine asked the Swedish foreign minister to convey gratitude to the Swedish Government for the fact that Sweden was one of the first Scandinavian countries to recognise Ukraine's independence.

Margaretha af Ugglas described the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states as a historic event. She also highly appreciated the talks with the president of Ukraine and with her Ukrainian counterpart, Anatoliy Zlenko.

"We have brought with us a package of treaties which we handed over to Ukrainian experts. We hope that the treaties will be signed in the near future," she told UKRINFORM.

"But it was particularly valuable to us to hear once again from the president personally that Ukraine is steadily resolved to become a non-nuclear state. This stand of Ukraine is highly valued by both the government of my country and the Swedish people," Margaretha af Ugglas said.

Recruitment to Croatian Detachments Reported

LD1301134192 Moscow TASS in English 1317 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov and TASS correspondent Nikolay Zaika]

[Text] Kiev January 13 (TASS)—"Parallel with the autumn call-up to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, men are being secretly hired to serve in Croatian armed detachments," says a telegram addressed by chairman of the Serbo-Ukrainian Friendship Society Milorad Davic to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

"The Belgrade newspaper POLITIKA published on January 7, with reference to the 'Ostankino' TV programme," it continues, a report by its permanent correspondent in Moscow, who claimed that mercenaries were being recruited in Ukraine to take part in the Yugoslavian inter-ethnical conflict. "The recruitment of volunteers," the newspaper claims, "is taking place at a stadium in one of the Ukrainian towns."

In keeping with demands voiced by the local public, Davic asked the ministry to state whether this report was correct or not.

Spokesman of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry Colonel Igor Davydov said he had no such information.

National Affairs

'Alleged' 1986 Nuclear Weapons Test Reported

AU0901142892 Kiev SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian No. 20, Dec 91 p 3

[Unattributed article on alleged nuclear test conducted in the Ukraine in May 1986: "Nuclear Tests in the Ukraine. The Fact Needs to Be Investigated"—published in Russian]

[Text] We sat in the car and waited, not for one hour or two, but for four or five days. I was promised help and I promised assistance with building materials. Naturally because we do not smoke and we had to somehow kill time, we talked about everything.

I do not remember how all of this happened or how it started. I do not remember what I was thinking about. It did not immediately dawn upon me what he was talking about. I heard the word nuclear.

I asked him several times to say it again, without even understanding what it was all about. Only after he repeated the word "nuclear," did the meaning of his words begin to come home to me.

"I took part in nuclear tests."

He is about 30 and his occupation is the breeding of small fishes. He is a likable fellow. That is why I decided to help him.

"What tests, did you say? In what sense?

"In the most direct sense. I took part in nuclear tests."

"In what way? Did you trigger the reactor?"

"No, a nuclear explosion."

!!! [as published]

"Has the long wait made you crazy? Nuclear tests are conducted in long-suffering Kazakhstan. Were you there?"

"No, in the Ukraine!"

"Perhaps, it was an underground explosion for national economic purposes?"

"It was above ground."

"Nonsense! This cannot be true! It is forbidden! Was it long ago?

"It was real."

"Tell me."

He told me as follows:

"I served in a regiment that was equipped with self-propelled artillery, with 152-millimeter howitzers, and we were stationed in Korosten. At the end of April, I returned from leave. At the beginning of May (approximately between the 1st and the 15th, I do not remember exactly when), I, and other servicemen, were equipped with weapons and taken to the munitions dump. Several rows of barbed wire. A large box. It was opened and at first it seemed to me to be empty. However, it was not. There was an ammunition transporter in it. We were brought up to it. I had not seen anything like that before. It resembled a coffin with a cartridge case from our 152-mm shell fixed on top of it. Then we understood about the design of this box—it was the container. When necessary, wheels could be released from the bottom of it: It could roll over the ground. Or skis could be released: It could be pulled over the snow or ice. All the instruments necessary for servicing it were fixed onto it, and so on. The cartridge case was removed and the box was opened. Inside it, on a piece of velvet, lay our 152-mm shell. And how it looked! It was painted blue, nickel-plated, a real beauty. Damn it! I saw such a thing for the first and, hopefully, for the last time. The box was shut and we were ordered to lift it and load it on a car. However, it was not easy to do. It was covered with lead. A large team was necessary for loading it. It was loaded. We were ordered to load it onto the back of the truck. If somebody stopped the truck and started getting onto the back of it, we were ordered to shoot without warning! We rode. We arrived at the Zhitomir test site. The load was taken off and placed near a self-propelled gun. It was taken to a combat position. We opened the box. The shell was fixed to the box with clamps complete with encoded locks. It remained there for two days. We waited for the code. (As we found out later, the shell would have self-destructed had a wrong code been tried.)

The code arrived from Moscow by satellite communication. The locks were released. This was done by senior officers. With a special key fixed on the box, the type of explosion was set—above ground. It was loaded into the self-propelled gun and triggered. Bang—one, two, three... A huge orange-colored sphere was borne into the air. A terrifying spectacle! Later, an officer told us secretly that we had participated in nuclear tests. The explosion was made above ground in order to make it more difficult to register. The explosion was not very powerful, though in principle such a shell would be sufficient to do away with Kiev.

That's it. In autumn, I was demobilized. In winter, I received a government award for service to the motherland. Later, I found out that our regiment had been disbanded."

Yes, I forgot to say that it was in 1986. Like that. In the confusion created by Chernobyl, a nuclear weapons test was conducted above ground in the Ukraine. Everything in this story is the TRUTH [as published], and an investigation needs to be made.

For obvious reasons I am signing an assumed name.

Resolution Issued To Transfer Party Property

AU1301151492 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No. 38-39, Dec 91 p 9

[Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers Resolution "On Transferring Former Party-Owned Publishing Houses" issued on 27 November in Kiev, and commentary by V.S. Kolomiyets, leading specialist of the Cabinet of Ministers Secretariat]

[Text] In connection with the transfer of former party-owned publishing houses to the jurisdiction of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Ukraine, in accordance with Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman's resolution No. 1644-XII issued on 19 October 1991, the Cabinet of Ministers resolves as follows:

1. To transfer the former party-owned publishing houses, listed in the supplement, to the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian State Committee for the Press. The transfer must involve the fixed productive capital, circulating capital, all premises used for production, offices, storage, and auxiliary purposes, facilities meant for sociocultural purposes, means of transport, and other property.

2. The Ukrainian State Committee for the Press must take measures to ensure an effective utilization of the material and technological base of the publishing houses.

The Ukrainian Ministry of the Economy must resolve questions connected with the material and technological provision of the activity of the publishing houses transferred to the Ukrainian State Committee for the Press.

With regard to questions that need to be resolved by the government, well-grounded proposals must be submitted to the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers.

3. The Ukrainian Ministry of the Economy and the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance must introduce corresponding changes into the economic and financial indices of the Ukrainian State Committee for the Press.

4. To determine that editorial boards of periodical publications that belonged to former party-owned publishing houses should continue their activity based on the agreements concluded with publishers and in accordance with the requirements of the current legislation.

5. The Ukrainian State Committee for the Press must take it upon itself, in accordance with the current legislation, to nominate, on a competitive basis, heads of the publishing houses transferred to the committee.

6. In connection with a considerable increase in the amount of work and expansion of the functions of the management, to add eight positions to the personnel of the central apparatus of the Ukrainian State Committee for the Press and allocate 94,600 rubles [R] for their maintenance.

To introduce an additional post of deputy chairman of the committee.

Supplement to Resolution No. 341 Issued by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers on 27 November 1991

List of Publishing Houses That Are Transferred to the Jurisdiction of the Ukrainian State Committee for the Press

"Radyanska Ukrayina," Kiev;
"Tavrida," Simferopol with a branch in Yalta;
"Zorya," Dnepropetrovsk;
"Donechchyna," Donetsk;
"Zakarpattya," Uzhhorod;
"Komunar," Zaporizhzhya;
"Trembita," Ivano-Frankivsk;
"Kyyivska Pravda," Kiev;
"Kirovohradska Pravda," Kirovohrad;
"Luhanska Pravda," Luhansk;
"Vilna Ukrayina," Lviv;
"Chornomorska Komuna," Odesa;
"Poltava," Poltava;
"Zbruch," Ternopil;
"Kharkiv," Kharkiv;
"Naddnipryanska Pravda," Kherson;
"Podillya," Khmelnytskyy;
"Desna," Chernihiv.

V.S. Kolomiyets, Leading Specialist of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers, Comments Upon the Resolution by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers

Undoubtedly, the transfer of former party-owned publishing houses to the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian State Committee will considerably strengthen the Ukraine's book publishing and its material and technological foundation. It is no secret that the most advanced printing technology, including that imported from abroad, was channeled, first and foremost, to the publishing houses of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party and its oblast committees. Let us approach this question from another direction: The Donetsk, Cherkassy, Khmelnytskyy, Poltava, and some other oblast printing houses were built and equipped with printing technology with the help of state capital investments. Soon afterwards, in accordance with the decision adopted by the Bureau of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, these printing enterprises were transferred, free of charge and from budget to budget, to party oblast committees, and party publishing houses were organized on this basis. In this manner, a powerful printing industry was created, which added millions of rubles in profit to the party budget annually. Consequently, this is not a matter of transfer but rather of return to the state of its own property. This property is not so small: The property being transferred includes 18 newspaper and magazine publishing houses. Among them are such giants as the printing combine and the publishing house "Radyanska Ukrayina" that issues central and republican newspapers, magazines, books, calendars, postcards, and posters.... The recently built publishing house "Kyyivska Pravda" prints, by the offset process, oblast, city, and a number of rayon newspapers. "Zorya" in Dnipropetrovsk, "Vilna Ukrayina" in Lviv, "Donechchyna" in Donetsk, "Kharkiv," and others are real printing combines. The total balance cost of the fixed assets of the former party-owned publishing houses amounts to R261,600,000 and the circulating capital is R53 million. The total area of the premises occupied by the publishing houses constitutes 532,000 square meters; this includes 321,000 square meters of production premises, 96,600 square meters of storage space, and 114,000 square meters of editorial and publishing space. Nearly 11,000 printing workers, journalists, and publishers work within the network of these publishing houses.

The printing capacity of the publishing houses transferred to the Ukrainian State Committee for the Press makes it possible to issue more than 30 million copies of newspapers daily and 360 million magazines and 50 million books every year.

Twelve publishing houses, such as "Zorya," "Donechchyna," "Kharkiv," "Luhanska Pravda," "Vilna Ukrayina," and others are equipped with facilities for receiving texts of central newspapers by faxing. Eight publishing houses have such facilities for receiving republican newspapers.

In accordance with tentative estimates, during the current year, the former party-owned publishing houses that have been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian State Committee for the Press will issue commodity output worth over R130 million and will contribute considerably to the state budget of the independent Ukraine.

Let me say in conclusion that the editorial boards of the periodicals that used to work for the former party-owned publishing houses will continue their work, proceeding from the agreements concluded with publishers during the last year or at the beginning of the current year. The editorial boards of newspapers and magazines and the publishers alike are answerable for their activity in accordance with the requirements of the current legislation.

Belarus

Supreme Soviet in 'Furious Debate' on Military

PM1401101192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jan 92 p 1

[Colonel P. Chernenko report: "Belarus: Its Own Ministry and Its Own Oath"]

[Text] The uproar created over the army on the banks of the River Dnepr has spread to the Neman. Perceiving the transfer of jurisdiction over the Belarussian Military District's troops to the republic as an urgent matter, S. Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, proposed adding another—military—question to the agenda of the next session, and so it was done.

But this seemingly clear question proved quite complex for the Supreme Soviet. Deputies heard the report of Lieutenant General P. Chaus, Belarus minister for defense affairs, in the afternoon of 10 January and began discussing it but did not reach a unanimous opinion until the evening of 11 January, and then with difficulty. And whereas the transformation of the Ministry of Defense Affairs into the republic's Ministry of Defense and the adoption of the text of the new military oath posed no problems, the proposal to transfer the troops stationed on Belarus territory to the republic's jurisdiction produced a furious debate.

Colonel General A. Kostenko, commander of the Belarussian Military District, drew parliament's attention to the fact that if the district is transferred to the republic's jurisdiction, Belarus will rank first among European states in degree of militarization and number of weapons per head of the population. Will the 6,500 Russians and Ukrainians, 3,000 Uzbeks, and around 1,000 Azerbaijanis currently serving on Belarus territory continue serving in the Belarussian Military District then? Having found out about servicemen's swearing a Belarussian oath, soldiers' parents have been storming units and subunits of the Belarussian Military District and demanding that their sons be sent home. We should ponder whether we are repeating other people's mistakes.

Many deputies' speeches were emotional, sometimes even cutting. Nevertheless, consensus was achieved, albeit with difficulty. It resulted in the resolution "On the Armed Forces Stationed on Belarus Territory" according to which jurisdiction over the Belarussian Military District's troops, except strategic forces, is to be transferred to the republic's Council of Ministers and parliament must begin talks on the joint armed forces together with the other CIS states.

At Col. Gen. Kostenko's request, the Supreme Soviet confirmed him as commander of the Belarussian Military District and, entrusting him with control of all the troops stationed in Belarus, gave him responsibility for preserving the district's whole material and technical base.

Shuskevich Comments on Meeting

PM1401112992 Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Jan 92 p 3

[Interview in Minsk on 10 January with Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarussian Supreme Soviet, by correspondent S. Vaganov: "Belarussian Response to Army Question"]

[Text] Minsk—On 11 January, the Belarussian parliament resolved to place all armed forces on Belarussian territory—with the exception of strategic forces, of course—under the jurisdiction of its government, ratified the text of a new military oath, and transformed the recently established Ministry for Defense Affairs into a Defense Ministry with all the appropriate functions.

The previous day, when it was still not known how the parliament would respond to the army question, I had a talk with Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarussian Supreme Soviet. A large portion of the talk was taken up with the army and, even more broadly, with military subjects. Given the ardent and abiding interest in how the Commonwealth states are resolving the highly acute military problems they face, I offer readers an extract from the conversation to give an impression of the Belarussian approach.

[Vaganov] Stanislav Stanislavovich, in the whole complex of political, socioeconomic, and ethnic problems, the army is the first major test of the young Commonwealth's durability....

[Shushkevich] You know, at the last Minsk meeting we reaffirmed each Commonwealth state's right to set up its own army. It is another matter that at the time only three of them—Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Ukraine—had enshrined this right in decisions passed by their parliaments. Our parliament was some way from passing such a decision. In principle the decisions can be different. For instance, we could allow our—and I stress "our"—troops to be part of a unified command. A decision on this score is being adopted.

[Vaganov] Can't you forecast the outcome?

[Shushkevich] I think that we will nonetheless place the troops on our territory under our jurisdiction. Even though this is very difficult. If only because troop density in our republic is three times greater than the average for the former Union. But we are more than likely to place them under our jurisdiction, given that there will be further force reductions.

[Vaganov] Why this haste, Stanislav Stanislavovich? Insofar as I am aware, the military question was not on the agenda of the current extraordinary session.

[Shushkevich] Life has put it on the agenda. We have just drafted a new body of soldiers. To whom should they swear allegiance? Probably to the Republic of Belarus. Is that not right? But we must not consider that officers who were born in Russia and say that those who want to swear an oath of allegiance to Russia are bad or hostile officers. This is a difficult problem, of course. But it can be gradually solved, although it has never arisen anywhere else in the world. How can we solve it? Well, look, we are incapable of maintaining such an army. But we will not state that we see it as an army of occupation—that would be totally absurd. This means that we must find a way to gradually withdraw a sufficiently large number of troops from the republic's territory. Clearly, these troops will go to Russian territory, where they are far less densely concentrated. Of course, this will require a major restructuring of the Russian defense system.

[Vaganov] In one of your speeches to the military you said that the army on Belarussian territory protects Russia. Why not the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]?

[Shushkevich] Fair enough, that may have been a slip of the tongue. Let us say the CIS. But I do not think that we are protecting Uzbekistan here, for instance. It is so far away. For some reason we are afraid to call a spade a spade. After all, realistically and in terms of most positions Russia is the successor to the former Union, and in this sense is even staking a claim to more than it should. As the successor, it embodies what the Union was to a certain extent. Are we really not defending what used to be the Union—which today, consequently, means Russia? Let's be blunt: Virtually nobody apart from Russia could have any interest in the troops which are in our republic in such numbers.

[Vaganov] Are those troops protecting Belarus?

[Shushkevich] Can you tell me against whom?

[Vaganov] Well, in principle....

[Shushkevich] Exactly, "in principle." But let's take a look at what this principle is. Basically, it is an old principle from imperial times that was successfully espoused by the totalitarian communist state. And if we are talking seriously about army reform, we need above all to reject communist doctrines and concepts—not just in words but in practice. Both externally and internally. This is what our republic did when it initially stated and later elevated to the status of constitutional law its desire for neutrality, for nonparticipation in military alliances and blocs, and for the status of a nuclear-free state. We resolutely reject the military doctrines under which Belarus has played the part of a front-line zone where troops are concentrated for an offensive. Quite simply, we were something akin to a Cossack encampment on the empire's Western borders. From this conceptual standpoint we are today going through a transitional period. But we make no secret of the ultimate goal—a nuclear-free, neutral state with a corresponding national army and military doctrine.

[Vaganov] Why is this transitional period being marked by major and dangerous upheavals and conflicts such as those which have arisen in connection with the Ukrainian leadership's decisions? After all, many people are quite justifiably accusing Ukraine of violating the Minsk accords....

[Shushkevich] I think that at the moment there is more emotion in this area than a desire to look into everything deeply, calmly, and lucidly. After all, the CIS has its own unusual logic—albeit not understood by everyone as yet. It seems to many people as though there has merely been a change of name—at any rate, there are people who would very much like that to be the case. But it is not the case. The CIS makes it possible—albeit with difficulty but, above all, peacefully and with a real interest—to resolve conflicts which, believe you me, did not just emerge today or even yesterday. What is the main principle of the agreement on the Commonwealth? It is the principle of negotiations and the rejection of all forms of strong-arm pressure to which the former Union center used to resort in conducting an essentially destructive policy. Forms such as economic blockades, not to mention military blockades. And the negotiating process can be bilateral, trilateral, or multilateral—depending on whose interests are involved. In this case it is the dispute between Russia and Ukraine. I do not want to judge that dispute. But I am convinced that, following some reciprocal emotional barbs, it will be resolved around the negotiating table. Just as we and Russia will ultimately resolve around the negotiating table the problem of ground forces on Belarussian territory. [Shushkevich ends]

P.S.: By a decision of the Belarussian parliament, the new military oath of "loyalty to the Republic of Belarus and its people" will be taken by those drafted into the army since November 1991. That is, those who were overwhelmingly drafted from Belarussian territory. There will be no strong-arm pressure on the officer corps. There is also hopeful news from Ukraine, where the incipient negotiating process has already produced its first results....

Officers Consider Unified Command

LD1301183292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It is not only Ukraine which intends to set up its own army. For example, according to some data, there will be around 90,000 men in the Belarussian army. However, there is no agreement on this issue in the republic. An officers' meeting for the Belarussian military district today came out in favor of a united command over the Commonwealth's Armed Forces. The difficult situation in which servicemen in the republic have found themselves was also discussed at the meeting. For example, the housing problem remains acute—there are around 17,000 officers and their families on the waiting list for accommodation today. The situation is rendered even more acute due to the fact that units are being withdrawn to Belarus from Eastern Europe. The Belarussian authorities are hoping to alleviate this problem—if only slightly—by an accelerated development of the housing program.

Kravchenko Satisfied With CIS Talks Outcome

LD1101195192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By BELTA-TASS correspondent Vladimir Glod]

[Text] Minsk, Jan 11 (TASS)—"Although the talks between the foreign ministers of the CIS member states were highly complicated, and lasted for more than 10 hours, I am extremely satisfied with their outcome," Petr Kravchenko, the foreign minister of the Republic of Belarus, said today after his return to Minsk. At Belarus' initiative, he noted, the text of a telegram had been approved and signed by all 11 participants in the talks, and sent to all the embassies and consulates of the former USSR.

The document contains, in particular, instructions that all the assets of these establishments abroad be inventoried within three weeks, and within one month handed over to a special intergovernmental commission. The commission will be set up next week and will hold its first meeting in Minsk on 20 January. The minister also said that during the talks a provisional document "On the establishment of a working group for logistic preparations for the Councils of the Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States" was approved without being initialed.

Goods Coupons Issued to Officers, Families

PM1001123192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Single Edition p 3

[Report by Colonel P. Chernenko under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Coupons Issued to Officers on Common Basis"]

[Text] Following Ukraine, coupons have also appeared in Belarus. The republic's Council of Ministers, with a view to protecting the consumer market and supplying inhabitants with essential food and industrial goods, has adopted a resolution on the introduction on Belarussian territory as of 1 January of a coupon system of accounts for goods.

On what scale will coupons be issued to servicemen?

"On a common basis," says Colonel V. Demchenko, chief of the Belarussian Military District financial service. "That is to a sum equal to 60 percent of their salary. Incidentally, officers and ensigns have already received coupons for January proceeding, it is true, from the salary they received before November. In the future, in connection with the increase in their salaries, reassessments will be made....

Coupons have also been issued to servicemen's wives with children under the age of three for the full sum of the grants they receive. But housewives will be issued with coupons (worth 150 rubles) only if they have unemployed status. If officers and ensigns serve in other regions, for instance in the Transcaucasus, or abroad, and their families live in Belarus, they are provided with coupons on a common basis upon presentation of certificates of the salary of the head of the family.

Well, everyone will receive coupons. But no abundance of goods in the stores is to be seen. So the coupons to all appearances will bring no relief to the inhabitants of Belarus.

Moldova

Snegur Cables Yeltsin on Moscow Mission Attack

AU1301212292 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev] Radio Station broadcast the full text of the governmental cable sent by Mr. Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, to Mr. Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation. Among other things, the telegram points out that attempts against the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova have increased recently. The forces that are openly speaking out against the Alma-Ata accords and for the maintenance of the former Soviet empire are setting up a bridgehead in Moldova, on the left bank of the Dnestr, and are causing public disturbances. These forces are increasingly being supported—morally and materially—from the outside, something that runs counter to the basic principles of international law.

The latest flagrant action aimed at undermining friendship and cooperation between Russia and Moldova was today's attack by some hooligans on Moldova's permanent mission in Moscow. In this respect, the telegram reads, we issue a strong protest and express the hope that Russia's leadership will take the necessary steps to punish the guilty ones and create normal conditions for that institution's activity.

Emphasizing that attempts to interfere in the domestic affairs of the Republic of Moldova should cause great concern, Mr. Mircea Snegur says that in his capacity as president of the Republic of Moldova he will do his best to ensure that relations between Moldova and Russia are friendly, in full accordance with existing accords and the norms of international law—the governmental telegram sent by Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, to Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, reads in conclusion.

'Separatists' Blamed for Shooting Attack

LD1301133592 Moscow TASS in English 1245 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Report by Moldovapres correspondent Anatoliy Golya and TASS correspondent Aleksander Tanas]

[Text] Kishinev January 13 TASS—The Moldovan Interior Ministry has blamed "Dnestr separatists" for trying to "provoke a bloodshed by firing upon law enforcement officers, to thwart the Moldovan leadership's constructive efforts to overcome the existing contradictions and settle the issue by peaceful means."

An official statement released here today by the Interior Ministry says that on January 12 "a group of unidentified persons opened fire from the left bank of the Dnestr upon policemen on duty and two police cars." Police Sergeant Manole and police Captain Marchenko were wounded in Dubossary, the Interior Ministry reports. There were also casualties among the civilian population. The statement says the policeman did not answer the fire, thereby avoiding a new conflict.

The document qualifies this attack by unidentified persons, who tried to provoke the police, as a "criminal act, directed against the people of Moldova."

Fines Set for Insulting, Slandering Leaders

LD1101071192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1137 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Summary] Kishinev, 9 Jan (TASS)—Under a law which came into force today, the offence of insulting or slandering the chairman of the Moldovan parliament or its president is punished by a fine of up to 3,000 rubles, up to two years corrective labor, or three years deprivation of liberty. Offending media can be fined up to 25,000 rubles. Public criticism is allowed.

Defense Department Prepares Military Doctrine

OW1301134492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The National Defense Department in Moldova has worked out a military doctrine for the republic. The document says, specifically, that Moldova will adhere to the principle of peaceful co-existence with states having different socio-political systems.

The doctrine, which is believed to be exclusively peaceful in character, declares that Moldova will never open hostilities against any party, unless it finds itself under hostile pressure from without.

The chapter "Military and Political Aspects of the Doctrine" lists options for Moldova's possible military response psychological aggression, military pressure, large-scale subversive or terror operations, separatist military activities, military aggression, etc.

Its geostrategic position prompts Moldova to maintain a numerically small professional army.

The doctrine rules out Moldova's involvement in any political, military or military-political bloc or the use of its territory by outside forces to prepare or carry out offensive operations against other countries.

Given a threat from without, Moldova will have the right to join some international military organisations to safeguard its national security.

The doctrine rules out Moldova's involvement in any political, military or military-political bloc or the use of its territory by outside forces to prepare or carry our offensive operations against other countries.

Given a threat from without, Moldova will have the right to join some international military organizations to safeguard its national security.

The doctrine says Moldova will not own, manufacture or purchase nuclear or biological weapons and will never allow other countries to station, store or transport weapons of mass destruction via Moldovan territory.

Muravschi Discusses Economic Reform, Romania

AU1101214892 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Report from Kishinev by Gabriel Ionescu on 10 January news conference by Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi—recorded]

[Text] [Ionescu] This evening Prime Minister Valeriu Muravski held a news conference at the Chisinau [Kishinev] Press House. The subject of the news conference, which lasted almost two hours, was economic reform and its implementation. Ionescu said that he can see no alternative for the Republic but the transition to the market economy. Today the government believes that the economic situation is so complicated that any delay in implementing the reform would lead to a state of crisis, Muravschi said. He added that in the second half of this month the executive will publish a program for stabilizing the economy. This economy, he said, is characterized by a high degree of integration in the system of the former Soviet Union and influenced by the common currency, the ruble.

Muravschi talked in detail about the three main directions of economic reform in Moldova: Price liberalization, social protection, and monetary reform. Some of the measures taken were the result of cooperation with the Academy of Economic Sciences of Moldova, whose rector, Paul Bran, comes from Bucharest. Muravschi thanked the Romanian professor for his contribution.

Muravschi then answered questions from reporters. I asked him to talk about the measures envisaged for eventually taking Moldova out of its current state of dependency. This is what he told us:

[Muravschi] The government is examining the issue of integration with Romania and other countries in the West from two viewpoints: First of all, we must try to get out of this situation of crisis. If you cut off the present links, everything comes to a stop. This is not normal. This amounts to total dependency. Concerning integration with Romania and other countries, one must see to it that our economic units and the economy in general—if not all of it, at least part of it—are able to function if links are disconnected or interrupted on this side.

Second, we should take into consideration the different technological levels in the West and East and the likely implications of this discrepancy in disorganizing the production process, and so forth. An International Monetary Fund delegation came here last December. I just got a call from them, whereby they told me that a delegation will come on 21 January to examine the possibility of Moldova's admission to that organization.

[Ionescu] Dear listeners, as you learned from yesterday's news conference by Romanian Government spokesman Iolanda Staniloiu, trade experts are currently examining the possibility of working out a draft agreement, to be negotiated later, on setting up a free trade zone between Romania and Moldova. Here are Muravschi's comments on this issue:

[Muravschi] This issue was also raised at my recent meeting with Mr. Stolojan in Husi, as part of the implementation of the intergovernmental accord signed last summer. We have certain opportunities for delivering products and resources to Romania, including goods which Romania needs and which we can obtain from other republics of the former Union. Likewise, many Romanian enterprises and economic units have stockpiles of consumer goods. We made a first step along these lines with the recently signed agreement on trade exchanges, including the loan granted to us. The main problem of concern involves payments and banking operations. Therefore, we are currently examining—even today, I had a talk with Mr. [Mugur] Isarescu, director of your central bank—about setting up a joint bank and opening accounts at your bank. Of course, one of the key aspects of the free trade zone currently under discussion is the banking arrangement, including the possibility of payments on the basis of clearing—payment in kind—which is also a way of integrating economic units. However, this is very hard to accomplish.

Snegur Urges Local Authorities Toward Reform

AU1201195892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1626 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 12/1/1992—The government headquarters in the Republic of Moldova was the venue of a meeting the cabinet had with heads of the local power bodies. President Mircea Snegur who led the meeting spoke about the key moments in a radical economic reform. He said the reform would be doomed to failure if the local power bodies did not take an active part in implementing it. They have shown no interest so far, he noticed.

The president called on the heads of local power bodies to show more initiative in the transitional period, and wait no more for instructions from the centre. He also said that a decree would soon be signed whereby the local bodies shall be still more independent in their action, and measures shall also be taken to reactivate the executive power.

Kazakhstan

Government To Establish Interior Troops

OW1101202592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan's president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has signed a decree, enforced today, in accordance with which interior troops are to be formed in the republic from the former USSR interior troops stationed on Kazakhstan's territory.

The new forces will have to maintain the peace, fight crime, guard prisons and various government buildings, convoy convicts and protect the security and national independence of the republic.

Kazakhstan's Cabinet of Ministers has been instructed to prepare a bill on interior troops and submit it to the parliament before March 1. It should work out the structure and size of the forces and a mechanism for their provision with weapons and equipment.

From January 1 the interior troops have been financed out of the national and local budgets.

Nazarbayev Attends Meetings on Military

LD1301185292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1134 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Kazakhstan's authorities will hold inventory of military equipment, ammunition and testing fields located in the republican territory.

On January 10, at the meeting of the Security Council of Kazakhstan chaired by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, it was also considered expedient to develop a republican military concept. The necessity to reorganize the Alma-Ata Higher All Troops Command College into republican multipurpose military college and to establish its own cadet college was also discussed. The issue of establishing a republican guard of up to 2,000 people was also considered.

[Moscow POSTFACTUM at 1134 GMT on 11 January adds in a similar report: "Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev insists on establishing CIS joint armed forces. On January 10, at a meeting in Alma-Ata with leadership and officers of common-to-all-arms from units located in the republican territory, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev also expressed his bewilderment with the actions taken by some states—members to the CIS. In Minsk, for example, one thing but are doing a bit different, said President Nazarbayev. [sentence as received] Speaking about the adoption of oath of allegiance, Nazarbayev stated that it is unacceptable now to swear to a republic, let alone to repeat the swear. Let the young soldiers to swear to their people, President Nazarbayev stressed."]

Comments on Armed Forces

OW1301183192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Conferring with the Turkestan Military District command on the eve of Marshal Shaposhnikov's arrival in Kazakhstan, the Republic's President Nursultan Nazarbayev said in Alma-Ata on Monday [13 January] that Kazakhstan would press for having the Commonwealth armed forces preserved under centralized control. He criticized the Ukrainian stand on the matter and observed that "whatever the situation, we will continue efforts to preserve our army in one piece, even if Russia remains our single ally.... We will maintain a single army under dual control."

According to the Kazakh leader, his republic will retain its nuclear weapons and test sites but take part "in all disarmament processes," cutting down the area under proving ranges.

Since the existing bill on Kazakh citizenship envisages a 10-year residence qualification, N. Nazarbayev acknowledged the need to introduce a special amendment concerning the status of military servicemen.

He called on the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan to work out a single defense concept.

Council Appoints Internal Troops Commander

LD1001173692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today in Alma-Ata a session of the Republic of Kazkhstan's Defense Council [Sovet oborony] was held.

[Begin D. Baimbetov recording] At this first session in which Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan president and chairman of the State Defense Committee [Gosudarstvennyy komitet oborony] participated, it was decided to develop a concept on military issues on the basis of the treaty signed by heads of the majority of the Commonwealth of Independent States. An inventory of military equipment, weapons, ammunition, and the property of military units in Kazakhstan territory will be carried out. There will be a republican guard numbering about 2,500 people. Its main goal will be the defense of the constitutional system. In the near future, the Cabinet of Ministers is to develop a draft law and regulations on the guard.

A presidential decree was also adopted on forming internal troops. Major General (Gordeyev) has been placed in command. Military units stationed on the republic's territory will be under dual subordination. It has also been decided to reorganize the Alma-Ata higher all-services school into a multi-discipline education institution, and create a military school like the Suvorov one. [end recording]

Nazarbayev Criticizes 'Forced' Price Change

LD1301140992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1244 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Report by Kaztag correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 13 Jan (TASS)—The liberalization of prices in Kazakhstan from 6 January is a forced measure. The republic "had" to embark upon it "in the wake of Russia and some other states of the Commonwealth, otherwise the mass outflow of Kazakhstan's products to other regions of the former Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics would have begun," according to the statement issued by President Nursultan Nazarbayev today in connection with the mass discontent of inhabitants of Kazakhstan at the sharp increase in the cost of living.

In the words of Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan proposed to the leadership of Russia and other republics that the liberalization of prices be postponed until 1 July 1992, considering the moment which had been chosen for it to be "very unsuitable." Unfortunately, the president said, the arguments of the Kazakhstan side did not meet with understanding.

He admitted that the price jumps in the wake of their liberalization have turned out to be beyond what many ordinary people in the Republic can afford, having thrown them below the poverty line. In order to somehow alleviate the population's situation—especially those poorly provided for—the president has made a decision to freeze prices of all types of bread, milk, and milk products with the exception of butter, at a level that may not exceed by more than threefold the prices in operation before their liberalization.

Nazarbayev also discussed his decision to hand over, as soon as possible, at least 10 percent of the trading areas in cities to collective farms, state farms, and processing enterprises. As a result, in his opinion, the opportunity will arise to appreciably intensify the trade in foodstuffs.

The president categorically demanded that the republican leaders of all levels adopt "exhaustive" measures for the social support of the population and the protection of the consumer market of Kazakhstan. He threatened all officials guilty of "criminal inactivity in this hard time of ours for the people" with "strict" administrative and even criminal liability.

Supreme Soviet Broadens Presidential Powers

LD1301180392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1535 GMT 13 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] On January 13, Kazakhstan's Supreme Soviet broadened republican president's powers.

Under the law on introducing amendments and alterations for the transitional period to the Kazakhstan's repubican law "On the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]", the Kazakhstan's president is now empowered to eject from the Council of Ministers' supervision certain sphere of state management and transfer them to state and other bodies created for the purpose, and also to delegate to the government execution of certain powers within the limits of competence entrusted to the president.

Under the law, the Kazakhstan's prime minister, his first deputies and deputies will be approved by the repubican Supreme Soviet on nomination by the Republic's president. The ministers of the Republic will be appointed on agreement with respective committees of the repubican Supreme Soviet.

The Supreme Soviet has also considered the draft law on introducing amendments and alterations for the transitional period to the Kazakhstan Republic's law on local self-government and local soviets of people's deputies. Under the draft, local administration head, accountable to the president or to the head of the regional administration, or to the corresponding soviet of people's deputies, will become executive and administrative head in the regional, district, city or city district territory.

Tajikistan

Dushanbe Garrison Reportedly Swears Oath

LD1101213392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Interview with General Farukh Niyazov, chairman of the Defense Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded; first paragraph is announcer's introduction]

[Text] Today in Dushanbe the servicemen of the National Guard of the Republic of Tajikistan took an oath of allegiance to the Republic and its people. Concerning the future military policy of the Republic of Tajikistan, listen to the conversation our correspondent had with General Farukh Niyazov, chairman of the Defense Committee of the Republic.

[Niyazov] The position of our Republic is first for a united force, not for the formation of our own army, and second [words indistinct] there will be coordination, that is, a joint cooperation with all the formations and units that are positioned in the territory [words indistinct] of the central forces of general purpose.

[Correspondent] You presented [words indistinct] as far it is known to me, in Kurgan-Tyube there are rockets, tactical rockets, with nuclear warheads. What is their fate?

[Niyazov] Well, they are not included in the unified middle-range armed (?forces), as this not considered to be combat, therefore their task will be to [word indistinct] and the protection of the security of our Republic.

[Correspondent] You were appointed chairman of the Defense Committee because you are a (?rocket) professional and perhaps also because we have the processing of uranium [passage indistinct].

[Niyazov] [words indistinct] I have already been in the army many years. [words indistinct] that missile troops in particular have some experience, and on this basis the president selected me so as to [word indistinct] organize the formation of the committee [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Another question: How do you relate to the fact that Kravchuk wants to be [word indistinct] of the Black Sea Navy?

[Niyazov] I relate to this question with disapproval.

[Correspondent] In my opinion, the call-up of our young people to the army represents a very large percentage [words indistinct].

[Niyazov] Starting from this year [words indistinct] will call up only the number [words indistinct] necessary for the [word indistinct] of our Republic [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] [words indistinct]

[Niyzov] Certainly.

Report Denied

LD1201075992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0715 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Our office received a report this morning from the head of the press center of the Turkestan Military District. It says a report broadcast by the Vesti program alleging that the servicemen of the Dushanbe Garrison have taken the oath of allegiance to the Republic of Tajikistan does not correspond to the truth. In this instance, the garrisons, as well as the entire district, are loyal to the previously taken oath and consider it is not in accord with the honor of an officer and a soldier to take more than one oath. Politicians still fail to understand that an oath can be taken only once.

Protestors Urge Elections To Purge Communists

LD1301153892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1218 GMT 13 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Rally held on January 12 in Dushanbe demanded Communist parliament to be disbanded and new elections to the republican Supreme Soviet to be appointed for April-May this year on a multi-party basis. The speakers also called for immediate privatization of enterprises and shops, for the transfer of land to peasants.

The resolution adopted by the rally denounces the illegal actions of the authorities against cooperatives which, according to the protestors, incurred considerable losses to the republican economy actually facing an economic blockade.

The resolution also contains a warning to the president that unless some sensible steps are taken in order to prevent economic catastrophe in the republic, the opposition would refuse to take the blame for the government actions and hold Rakhman Nabiyev fully responsible for them. The deadline set by the opposition expires on February 12, the second anniversary of the tragic events of February 1990 in Dushanbe.

The protesters gave a vote of no-confidence to the director of the TV and radio company of Tajikistan Atakhon Saifullayev as well as to the republican Procurator Nurullo Khuvaidullayev and the procurator of Dushanbe Salomiddin Sharokov [names and titles as received]. The latter submitted a protest in writing on January 11 to the city executive committee against its decision to permit the rally and proposed the opposition to hold its own rally at the Lokomotiv Stadium on the outskirt of Dushanbe.

One of the rally speakers said: Communists were acting like General Pinochet sending their opponents to the far-off stadium thus showing their military muscle. A young Tajik writer Abdurophe Rabiyev told PF [POSTFACTUM] that he had counted 15 armored vehicles leaving the garrison when he looked out of his window on the morning on January 12. Later the vehicles appeared in different districts and at the entrances to the city. About 10 a.m. they returned to their garrison. The opposition leaders emphasized the danger of such illegal manipulating of troops. President Nabiyev of the republic has not yet transferred the military units deployed in Tajikistan to his jurisdiction but, according to the opposition leaders, can do it in the nearest future.

A 7-thousand-strong rally was held on the 800th anniversary of Moscow Square in Dushanbe on the initiative of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan and the Rastokhez (Revival) People's Movement, the local branches of which also organized rallies in various regions and regional centers of the republic.

Iran's Maleki on Expansion of Relations

LD1101184592 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Dushanbe, Jan. 11, IRNA—An official of the Iranian Foreign Ministry here Friday [11 January] said expansion of economic, political and cultural ties between Iran and the Tajik Republic was a natural continuation of common history between the two nations which was distrupted during 70 years of the communist rule.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Research and Educational Affairs 'Abbas Maleki, who inaugurated the Iranian Embassy in this capital city, made the remark prior to his departure for Tehran Friday afternoon.

On objectives of Iran's policy towards the Tajik Republic, Maleki said, "In the Tajik Republic we follow the will and determination of the people. For this same reason Iran gives priority to extending cultural assistane to the Tajik people."

Maleki noted that the decision to switch the script of the Tajik people into Persian was the main topic of discussion with the Tajik officials. He said Iranian Education Ministry by printing text books for the Republic will take the first step in this connection.

As for bilateral economic cooperation, Maleki said that there were suitable grounds for investment in the Republic.

According to Maleki construction of textile factories, cooperation in the field of oil, and establishment of an air route between the two countries were also raised with Tajik officials.

The Iranian delegation also held talks with the Tajik president and foreign minister in which Iran pledged to support membership of the Republic in international organizations, he said.

Meanwhile, a letter from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the appointment of 'Ali Mojtahed Shabestari as the care taker of the Iranian Embassy was handed over to Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev.

In another development, the Iranian delegation took part in Friday mass prayers at Dushanbe Jame' mosque. head of the Department for Religious Affairs in the republic Qazi Tourjan-zade led the prayers.

Later, speaker of the Tajik republic parliament told the worshippers that the parliament Friday approved " 'Id al-Adha", " 'Id al-Fitr", and Iranian new year "Nowruz" as official holidays in the Republic.

Iranian Embassy Opens

LD1001131692 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Dushanbe, Jan. 10, IRNA—Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dushanbe, the capital city of Tajik Republic, was inuagurated Thursday [10 January], the first foreign embassy in the country.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abbas Maleki, the Tajik foreign minister and a group of local people. 'Ali 'Ashraf Shabestari has been appointed as the care taker.

Prior to the ceremony Maleki and the Tajik foreign minister in a joint statement announced the establishment of Tehran-Dushanbe full diplomatic relations.

Both sides described establishment of Tehran-Dushanbe diplomatic relations as a "turning point" in the history of both nations. They also agreed on signing an agreement on border crossing between the two countries according to which citizens of both countries will exchange visits in the near future.

Maleki expressed hope that opening of the embassy in Dushanbe will pave the way for promotion of bilateral cooperation.

The Tajik minister called establishment of diplomatic relations a "historical event" and said Tajikistan is proud that the Islamic Republic embassy is the first to open in the Republic.

Maleki and his entourage also held talks with Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev.

Iran To Help Introduce New Persian Alphabet

LD1301031392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2000 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Tajikistan is going to replace the Cyrillic alphabet it's used since 1922 by the Persian one. The new alphabet will be introduced with assistance from Iran. The Tajik language is close to the Persian language, using Arabic letters. Iran, its deputy foreign minister, 'Abbas Maleki says, will publish textbooks and other literature for this.

Unified Commonwealth Armed Forces Favored

OW1301211392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Tajik Defense Committee, Major-General Farukh Niyazov stated at a meeting of the Dushanbe Military Garrison's officers Monday [13 January] that Tajikistan favors not only strategic unified armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, but also conventional ones.

The meeting was timed to an All-Army gathering of officers in Moscow scheduled for January 17. Niyazov also noted that the rights of military servicemen in the Republic would not be infringed upon. The status of the military will be formally established by republican legislations on their legal and social protection.

Uzbekistan

Supreme Soviet Elects Mutalov Prime Minister

LD1301124192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1155 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tashkent, 13 Jan (TASS)—Abdulhashim Mutalov, deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers under the president of the Republic, has become first prime minister of Uzbekistan. He was elected at the extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan, which resumed today.

Participants in the session adopted a resolution on the organization of a republican committee of state control under the president of Uzbekistan. Mirahmat Mirqasymov, who previously worked as chairman of the Republic's people's control committee, which was abolished, has become its chairman.

The session is continuing work. Tomorrow deputies will discuss questions connected with the formation of the emergency budget for this year, liberalization of prices, and introduction of a coupon system.

Control of Former USSR Troops Decreed

LD1301075492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0736 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tashkent, 13 Jan (TASS)—Formations, separate units, and subunits of the Internal Troops of the former USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs stationed in Uzbekistan have been taken under the Republic's jurisdiction by a decree of Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov. A formation of the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan is being formed.

The Tashkent Higher School and the Higher Military-Technical School of the Internal Troops of the USSR Interior Ministry have been transferred to the command of the Republic's Ministry of Interior.

Coupons Introduced; To Circulate With Rubles

LD1001214392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Coupons, which are to be in circulation alongside rubles, were introduced in Uzbekistan today. The liberalization of prices should follow on from the coupons. It is expected that a decision on this will be adopted on 13 January at a session of the Republic's Supreme Soviet.

Government Applies For UN Membership

LD1401093492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1923 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations, 10 Jan (TASS)—The Republic of Uzbekistan has applied to become a member of the United Nations. The application is contained in a statement from President Islam Karimov addressed to the organization's Secretary General Butrus Ghali. The text of the statement was conveyed to the UN Secretariat and issued officially here today.

The statement contains a declaration that the Republic of Uzbekistan assumes the obligations contained in the UN Charter and solemnly undertakes to observe them. Also conveyed to the UN Secretariat was the text of a statement from the Government of the Repubic of Uzbekistan concerning its readiness to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a member-state not possessing nuclear weapons. Uzbekistan undertakes to adopt the guarantees set out in the IAEA Charter.

It is noted that Uzbekistan is proceeding from its desire for the attainment of universal total disarmament in the interests of lasting peace throughout the world. The statement quotes the Republic of Uzbekistan's proclamation of independence of 1 September 1991 and the nationwide support for this decision expressed by the peoples of the Republic at the referendum held on 29 December 1991.

The document stresses that the government of the Republic of Uzbekistan is striving consistently to develop processes of international cooperation and security, and for the democratization of public life, and respects human rights and basic freedoms and those of national minorities.

Trade Agreement Signed With Tajikistan

LD1301170892 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0300 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] A trade and economic cooperation agreement for 1992 was signed between the governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent yesterday. Trade and economic relations between the two republics have been envisaged within a [words indistinct] and on the basis of mutually advantageous relations. The agreement envisages the formulation of documents by 15 January 1992 on products to be supplied by the enterprises and organizations based in the republics. [passage indistinct] Karimov, first deputy of the prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, Sharipov deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers under the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan and heads of the ministries and [word indistinct] of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the signing ceremony.

Armenia

President Meets With Gamsakhurdia on Asylum

LD1401101392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] The Georgian president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, ousted from his post by the military opposition and given a shelter in the small Armenian town of Idzhevan, has had a talk with President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

The Armenian leader told journalists after the meeting that he had received an official request from the Georgian opposition leaders to give Gamsakhurdia refuge on Armenia's territory. He said Gamsakhurdia was allowed to stay in Armenia on condition that he give up all political activity. According to Levon Ter-Petrosyan, negotiations are being held with some countries, including Switzerland and France, on giving Zviad Gamsakhurdia a political asylum.

Explains Gamsakhurdia Saga

PM1301214392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Armenian President L. Ter-Petrosyan by Aleksandra Lugovskaya, place and date not given: "Armenia's Mission in Gamsakhurdia's Fate"]

[Text] Zviad Gamsakhurdia is still in the small town of Idzhevan on Armenian territory. The world is interested in his fate but the information on official Yerevan's subsequent steps is clearly lacking. Yesterday, 12 January, I met with Z. Gamsakhurdia immediately after his telephone conversation with Armenian President L. Ter-Petrosyan. Z. Gamsakhurdia refused to say anything about the essence of the conversation or his intentions in principle. A little earlier, L. Ter-Petrosyan gave an interview to IZVESTIYA in which he explained in detail Armenia's position on this question.

[Lugovskaya] I would like you to clarify the situation which many in Armenia call delicate but nevertheless do not doubt that you, Levon Akopovich, will find the right way out of it. I mean Georgian President Z. Gamsakhurdia's presence in the republic.

[Ter-Petrosyan] I am glad to have the opportunity to explain my position on this matter. We have already prepared a document which will answer all the questions. This is the official viewpoint of the Armenian Government on the granting of asylum to Z. Gamsakhurdia. Let me explain further. In January 1992 a delegation from President Gamsakhurdia headed by Foreign Minister Omanidze came to us in Armenia to ask us to perform an intermediary mission between the warring sides. We told them that we are ready to undertake such a mission if the opposition asks us to. The essence of the intermediary mission is to achieve a cease-fire and end further bloodshed. We received the agreement of the opposition, which had also put such a request to us. But first we got in contact with them and told them about the visit by the president's delegation. They—both Sigua and Kitovani—welcomed this move with gratitude. The same day our delegation went to Tbilisi, where it met with Z. Gamsakhurdia and the opposition. An agreement was reached. Both sides stated that they do not want further bloodshed and agreed to a peaceful solution of this problem. The possibility of Armenia's receiving Z. Gamsakhurdia as a temporary guest was granted.

[Lugovskaya] An accord with the opposition?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Both with the opposition and with President Z. Gamsakhurdia. Two days later the opposition, it may be said, allowed him to leave Government House and left a passage open to him. The president, his family, and the supporters who were with him left and reached Armenia via Azerbaijan. We received an official request from Sigua to disarm Z. Gamsakhurdia's entourage and grant him and his family temporary asylum in Armenia. I have that letter with me.

I contacted Z. Gamsakhurdia via my official representative and offered the following terms: All the people accompanying him are to be disarmed and surrender their weapons to our authorities, we will draw up a protocol and then return these weapons to the lawful authorities in Georgia. We are granting temporary asylum to Gamsakhurdia and his family. That is the state of affairs at the moment.

[Lugovskaya] What were the terms or request of Z. Gamsakhurdia himself?

[Ter-Petrosyan] He wants to hold a major press conference but one of my conditions is that Z. Gamsakhurdia must not engage in political activity on Armenian territory. Because every word that he says could inflame society in Georgia. That is why I, at my own discretion, if you will, banned all contacts between Z. Gamsakhurdia and journalists for the time being.

[Lugovskaya] What time limit is set on Armenia's granting of temporary asylum to Z. Gamsakhurdia?

[Ter-Petrosyan] There is no time limit. There are already countries which are ready to give him political asylum although there have been no concrete proposals at intergovernment level yet. The question of granting political asylum has not been discussed in Armenia.

[Lugovskaya] What countries are you talking about?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Switzerland, France.... But the initiative comes not from officials but from Georgian communities in those states. They give assurances that they will seek political asylum for Z. Gamsakhurdia from those countries. The proposals are arriving via our government structures.

[Lugovskaya] Why have you no direct contacts with the Georgian president? Has he asked you for a meeting?

[Ter-Petrosyan] No, he has not made such a request to me. But I have received a letter from him. It was calm and businesslike and asked for temporary political asylum. We have already granted his request in part by giving him temporary asylum. I repeat that the question of political asylum is not being discussed at the moment.

[Lugovskaya] Do you intend to discuss it?

[Ter-Petrosyan] We shall see how things work out. Whether the situation in Georgia stabilizes, whether the Georgian authorities agree...

[Lugovskaya] How long could the examination of this question take?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Until Z. Gamsakhurdia is completely satisfied with the present situation.

[Lugovskaya] Have there been any attempts on Z. Gamsakhurdia's life or any strong-arm pressure on him? Who is protecting the Georgian president?

[Ter-Petrosyan] We have left him a personal bodyguard of around 15 men and have added a guard from our side. I consider that sufficient.

[Lugovskaya] Nevertheless, how long will this uncertainty go on?

[Ter-Petrosyan] I cannot say.

[Lugovskaya] What depends on you?

[Ter-Petrosyan] To do everything to ensure that Z. Gamsakhurdia's stay in Armenia does not influence the situation in Georgia, does not tend to destabilize the situation in that state, and in no way harms Armenian-Georgian relations.

[Lugovskaya] How do you view events in Georgia? Is it a military coup or...

[Ter-Petrosyan] I would rather not answer that question.

[Lugovskaya] Could the voluntary resignation of the Georgian president be a rational solution?

[Ter-Petrosyan] The right to do what is best is his alone. I consider this a purely internal affair for Georgia.

Demonstrators Demand Expulsion of Gamsakhurdia

LD1301211692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast"]

[Text] A demonstration began today in front of the residence of the Armenian president. The participants are demanding the expulsion of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, ex-Georgian president, from Armenia.

Deputy Prime Minister Says Situation Critical

OW1201161292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia will have to introduce its own monetary unit unless the situation improves in the next 6-8 months, Deputy Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan told TV vievers in Armenia on Saturday [11 January].

He described the situation in the wake of price liberalization as extremely hard and even critical. According to G. Bagratyan, the heaviest blow was struck by the price hikes on natural gas, gasoline and black oil. Local energy resources being scarce, Armenia has to import fuel. Besides, the subsidies granted to Armenia after the 1989 earthquake were stopped on January 1.

He conceded that under the circumstances the newly established minimal wages, 280 roubles, and pensions, 260 roubles, will cover only the cost of bread, milk, house rent and public transport fare.

Fuel Shortage Halts Industrial Production

LD1401091592 Moscow TASS in English 0849 GMT 14 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan January 14 TASS—Industrial enterprises in Armenia came to a standstill on Tuesday [14 January] after yesterday's decision by Armenian Emergency Committee for National Economy. The committee arrived at the decision having considered the grave energy crisis in Armenia.

Natural gas supplies in Armenia are only used for heating. Oil and other fuel do not arrive because of railroad worker's strikes in Georgia.

Meanwhile, good news came from Azerbaijan where railroad transport began its operations and heating oil is expected to reach Armenia soon.

President Applies To Join IBRD, IMF

LD1401000192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2010 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Lebedev]

[Excerpt] Washington, 13 Jan (TASS)—Armenia has applied to join the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD] and the IMF. An IBRD press release circulated today reports that applications to join these international financial and economic organizations, based in Washington, have been submitted by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. [passage omitted]

Meets With IMF Delegation

NC0901201592 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1500 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received an IMF delegation visiting Armenia today. The delegation is headed by [name indistinct].

Noting that Armenian membership in the IMF, something that only a few months ago would have seemed unthinkable, will open opportunities for close cooperation with that prestigious [word indistinct] international organization, Ter-Petrosyan assured the delegation that he would do all in his power to help the IMF specialists get detailed information on issues they want to research, including a comprehensive study on the republic's economic situation and the functioning of the financial and banking systems.

The IMF official noted the West's interest in the positive movements in the former Soviet republics, which are now independent member states of the commonwealth. He said that he envisages a new foundation within the IMF structure to help shape the economic relations with the republics.

The goal of the visit, the official said, is to study the basic forms and direction of the planned assistance and present them for IMF review.

The head of the delegation stressed that a clear economic program is needed if the IMF and other groups' initiatives are to be productive. He assured the Armenian officials that in the interim a certain amount will be allocated [words indistinct] to help meet needs.

The connection between economic and political matters was also stressed, especially the fact that the continuing blockades of the gas pipeline and railways, which further deepens the energy crisis and impedes the industrial activity, is a major (?impediment) in preparing an economic program.

At the guests' request, Ter-Petrosyan explained the Armenian position on the economic reform process, noting that in the future everything will be done to cooperate and undertake mutually agreed upon and mutually advantageous measures with the members of the commonwealth. He cautioned, however, that as an independent state Armenia must independently establish its own infrastructure and ensure that Armenian development will not bog down if the other republics have problems.

In addition, the president continued, it is not currently expedient to be lead only by the traditional ties in the spheres of politics, economy, and other fields of cooperation. The prospect for normal relations with neighboring countries, Turkey's initiative to create a Black Sea common market, and the advantages of trade and economic ties with Iran and Near East countries should not be disregarded.

The officials also examined other important matters pertaining to cooperation. Deputy Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan and other officials were present at the meeting.

PRC Delegation Signs Agreements, Departs

NC1001213892 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1930 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] A PRC trade and economic delegation was in Yerevan for two days. Before leaving, the delegation signed a trade and economic agreement with Armenia. A protocol was also signed on exchanging trade representatives.

Deputy Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan received the delegation.

After the signing ceremony, the head of the PRC delegation told reporters: China and Armenia are ancient countries and now is the time to revive the Silk Road, the opening of which Armenia contributed to a thousand years ago. Our ties will develop very rapidly and become wide-ranging, he added, because Armenia is a reliable partner.

Ter-Petrosyan on Presidential Rule, Economy

NC1201193892 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1930 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] In an INTERFAX interview, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan declared that the decision to introduce presidential rule in parts of Azerbaijan is an internal affair and Armenian authorities have no intention of interfering.

The president expressed regret, however, that the decision confirms that Azerbaijan is not ready for mutual concessions. We cannot remain indifferent to the blatant violations of the basic rights of the Armenian population.

Speaking about the Armenian economic situation, the president said that it would be possible to stabilize the Republic's market within a year through steady production of consumer goods, but the prolonged blockade of the gas pipeline and railways has effectively brought Armenia's industrial production to a standstill.

Council Presidium Appoints Advisers 10 Jan

NC1201210892 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1930 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The Armenian Council of Ministers Presidium met on 10 January under Vice President and Prime Minister Gagik Arutyunyan. The meeting discussed measures related to the new government structure and the payment of wages to workers idled by the energy crisis.

The meeting also heard a report from Minister of Construction Gagik Arutyunyan on his working visit to Italy. He announced that an agreement has been reached with the Italian firm (Bazotti) to import an assembly line for brick production. The yearly output will meet about one-third of the republic's needs.

The Presidium appointed Yuriy Sivanyan and Armen Martirosyan advisers to the prime minister.

Azerbaijan

Village Near Nagorno-Karabakh Shelled

OW1401041192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [13 January] Azerbaijani armed units shelled the village of Shaumyanovsk in the Geranboyskiy region of Azerbaijan near the border with Nagorno-Karabakh killing 5 people, including 2 children, and wounding 15. Sources in the Armenian headquarters say the village was shelled from the multi-barrelled missile system "Grad." The first volley at 15:30 killed 5 people and wounded 15. The second was made at 18:45. Casualties are yet unknown. The village suffered considerable damage.

Meanwhile, the Nagorno-Karabakh Interior Board reports on the night of January 12 a group of armed Azerbaijanis attacked a house on the outskirts of the village of Khnushiknak in the Martuninskiy region killing a 33-year-old housewife and her two-year-old son and taking Mikhail Ovsepyan and his 9 and 4-year-old sons hostage.

Nagorno-Karabakh Situation Causes 'Alarm'

LD1301201692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1640 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 11 Jan (TASS)—According to reports from Stepanakert, the first session of the Supreme Soviet of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] has suspended its work. It elected a parliamentary speaker and a prime minister and adopted laws on state property and the state of emergency. Secondary elections are under way in the NKR today in which 19 more deputies are due to be elected by the population. During the first elections, held on 28 December, voting was interrupted at a number of Stepanakert polling stations by massive missile and artillery shelling. The situation in the NKR continues to give rise to much alarm. According to a report by the NKR Internal Affairs Directorate, a Stepanakert resident was killed today by snipers from the Azerbaijani village of Kirkidzhan and at least three people were injured. On the night of 10-11 January some 10 people were injured during artillery shelling of the Armenian village of Seysulan in Mardakertskiy rayon. There has been no electricity, flour, or fuel in Stepanakert for six days now; buildings, including medical establishments, have been destroyed. The number of those killed and injured is growing. The former Communist Party oblast committee building has been turned into a military hospital. The maternity wards are situated in the Supreme Soviet building.

Large-Scale Operations Feared

LD1301235792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] A report from Stepanakert: A considerable concentration of units of the Azerbaijani army in and around Nagorno-Karabakh and also operational information that has been received are giving the leaders of the law enforcement bodies of Nagorno-Karabakh reason to fear large-scale operations. This was what a RIA correspondent was told at the press center of the Supreme Soviet of Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to information from the Internal Affairs Administration of the Republic, on 12 and 13 January Stepanakert and the rayon centers of Martuni and Gadrut and the village of Karachinar came under rocket and artillery fire once more. There are casualties and severe damage.

Relations in 'State of War'

LD1301202592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Relations between the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan are the relations between two countries that are in a state of war. Artur Mkrtchan, the 33-year-old head of the Nagorno- Karabakh parliament, has stated this to the SNARK agency. He described the withdrawal of the internal troops from Nagorno- Karabakh as a betrayal. Mkrtchan has a skeptical attitude on the idea of introducing UN forces into Nagorno-Karabakh. He said he considers it possible that the forces of the new commonwealth will be brought in. Russia is the only large state into whose political sphere Nagorno-Karabakh can fall, Mkrtchan noted.

President Establishes Foreign Trade Bank

LD1201054192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1308 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Natan Barskiy]

[Text] Baku, 11 Jan (TASS)—A foreign trade bank is being established in Azerbaijan. The Republic's president has issued a decree on its organization. This is published in today's Baku newspapers. It says that the bank is being established to facilitate an independent policy in the sphere of foreign economic activity.

Russia Said To Obstruct Military Buildup

OW1401014992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian military leaders and the Commonwealth's Commander-in-Chief Marshal Evgeniy

Shaposhnikov are raising obstacles to the Azeri armed force buildup, said at the January 13 Baku briefing Azeri Defense Minister Tadzheddin Mekhtiev.

Mekhtiev emphasized that the army officers of the former Union who are serving on the Azeri territory had been secretly instructed to refuse swearing allegiance to Azerbaijan. He spoke in favour of placing the troops stationed in the republic under Azeri authority.

The defense minister claimed that the Azeri troops in Karabakh have inferior logistical support. According to him, the troops do not have a single armored vehicle (tank or APC), and are short on small arms, ammunition, etc. The minister reported that Marshal Evgeniy Shaposhnikov was arriving in Azerbaijan "in a couple of days."

Asked by IF [INTERFAX] about the destiny of the Caspian Military Flotilla and the air force units stationed in the republic, Mekhtiev said that the four ex-Soviet republics bordering on the Caspian Sea—Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenia—will decide the destiny of the flotilla. As for the the Air Force, said he, Azerbaijan is committed to reasonable sufficiency and will not lay claim to all of the Republic's aircraft.

Addressing the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, Ragim Guseynov, deputy chairman of the republican agency on Nagorno-Karabakh, said shelling by Armenian guerillas makes residence in scores of Azeri villages in the region impossible. Asked who supplies Armenian guerillas with weapons and ammunition, Guseynov said that the supplies were lifted by helicopter from Armenia. It was announced that the Soviet army's radars and air defense units in Azerbaijan did not obey the republican authorities.

In turn, the Defense Minister Mekhtiev emphasized that until now Azeri troops have been on the defensive in Karabakh. Now, he says, they will launch more vigorous actions.

Agreement Signed With Iran on Gas Pipeline

NC1201094892 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0300 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] President Ayaz Mutalibov and Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i signed an intergovernment agreement in Baku on 7 January. The agreement covers planning and laying a natural gas pipeline between Marand and Nakhichevan in 1992, when the pipeline will become operational.

In 30 days the Azer Natural Gas and Oil Extraction Administration and the Iranian Natural Gas Company will sign a special accord.

Turkey To Construct 'Largest Mosque' in Area

NC1201112492 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The largest mosque in the northern Caucasus region will be built in Dagestan's capital, Makhachkala, with a 7,000 capacity. Turkish construction workers will build the new mosque and Turkey will pay for its construction.

Turkey will also participate in building a religious school and shrine and other cultural establishments in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. It will also help build similar establishments in areas inhabited by Meskhetian Turks.

Republican Party Appeal for Unity Reported

NC1001170692 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 2000 GMT 7 Jan 92

["Text" of an appeal by the Azerbaijan Republican Party to the Azerbaijani people; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Here is an appeal by the Republican Party of Azerbaijan [Republikacilar Partiyasi]:

Dear fellow countrymen, although the empire which enslaved our people for nearly [word indistinct] has disintegrated, its underlings in the empire center and throughout the region have not laid down their arms and abandoned their tarnishing and hypocritical policy against Azerbaijan.

When the Azerbaijan Republic has emerged as a new and independent state, committing our republic to the norms of international law, this disgusting policy threatens our national freedom, which has cost the blood of thousands of Azerbaijanis. Since there is no political consistency, faceless elements who have lost their nationalism are trying to benefit from the grave situation, the fabricated Nagorno-Karabakh problem which threatens our territorial integrity, and from the serious social and economic crisis. They are dragging our people into a destructive civil war.

The forces that were hostile to the Azerbaijani people in the past insidiously acted according to the divide and rule policy to keep dominating our homeland and prevent a united popular front from being established. They are making a similar effort now.

We must all try to maintain our national unity so that we can extricate our republic from the serious social, political, and economic crisis, safeguard and maintain our freedom, hand to future generations a national territory inherited from our forefathers, and get Azerbaijan known worldwide as a country which respects democratic, progressive, and human values. We need this unity just as we need air and water. Only through this unity will we maintain the independence achieved by long struggle, safeguard the Republic's territorial integrity, remove the speculators who are robbing their own people, disperse the gathering dark clouds of an interethnic clash, and restore peace and security to our homes. This is what our sacred and national objective requires from us; the social and political establishments, organizations, and political parties.

The existing complex and serious situation calls for us to act with awareness, human kindness, mercy, enthusiasm, and understanding, which are our people's unique qualities, and [word indistinct] our rich culture, which is based on national and religious traditions and [word indistinct] norms.

We call on the Azerbaijani people to unite. Come, let us unite in the struggle to maintain our homeland's territorial integrity and its inviolable borders. Let this struggle against reactionary forces in and outside the country provide freedom and a prosperous future for our people and unity and inviolability for our homeland.

Georgia

Parliament Lacks Quorum; Demonstration Held

OW1401060292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian parliament once again had no quorum Monday [13 January]. Only 72 of 250 MPs [members of parliament] showed up at a meeting in Tbilisi. After long debates they confirmed the earlier taken decision to convene a Popular Gathering to determine the future of Georgia and attitude towards the new authorities.

Chairman of the Georgian Supreme Councils Akakiy Asatiani who was presiding over the meeting was expected to make a statement, but he did not. He also refused to give interviews noting that he "is very tired after fulfilling his mission." Local observers perceived these words as his decision to give up politics.

Meanwhile, 300 supporters of the ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia staged a rally in front of the Philarmonics [as received] building where the deputies were meeting. The demonstrators urged the overthrow of the "junta" and the restoration of the legally-elected president and government.

Chairman Addresses Deputies

LD1401024492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1637 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Viktor Voronyuk]

[Text] Tbilisi, 13 Jan (TASS)—"My functions, as head of parliament, have been exhausted," Georgian Supreme Soviet Chairman Akakiy Asatiani told to a gathering of deputies today. "We do not have a parliament," he told a TASS correspondent, "the republic's Military Council has dissolved it."

The lengthy and stormy gathering of deputies at Tbilisi's "Amirani" cinema, to which representatives of the Coordination Council of Political Parties and Organizations of Georgia were invited, discussed the way to stabilize the Republic's situation. However, the proposal to hold elections to the new parliament in May, just like the proposal to continue its work in its initial and full membership, did not receive the support of those assembled. The issue of restoring the powers of the deputies from the opposition parties and of the communists who had been previously expelled from the Supreme Soviet was a stumbling block. Otherwise, the cut down parliament will represent a group of legislators who are most loyal to Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

At the same time, a consolidation variant has been outlined, based on the convening of a people's assembly which would include representatives of the official and unofficial elected structures of all the political directions. This representative body will elect a national assembly which should set the date for the elections to the parliament and create the conditions to legitimize the authority established in Georgia after the armed overthrow of Zviad Gamsakhurdia by the opposition.

As a TASS correspondent has learned from reliable sources, an armed group of up to 100 people consisting of those who had surrounded Zviad Gamsakhurdia was arrested near the town of Akhaltsikhe without a single shot being fired. According to preliminary data, its purpose was to destabilize the situation in western Georgia and to attract Gamsakhurdia's supporters into the struggle against the new authorities. At the same time, a wave of rallies swept through the western rayons of Georgia that attracted those who assessed the events in Tbilisi as a putsch and the actions of a junta.

At the present time, the supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia are trying to block traffic on the railway and the highway between Sukhumi and Zugdidi, thereby depriving the republic, Armenia, and the troops of the Transcaucasian military district of food and materials and equipment.

Council Permits Execution of 'Marauders'

LD1201040492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1012 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Voronyuk]

[Text] Tbilisi, 11 Jan (TASS)—According to Iosif Vagarashvili, commander of Georgia's Government House, he has received an order from the Military Council permitting the use of the sternest measures, even execution by shooting, against marauders. The situation has not come to that yet but, according to the commander, more than 50 people already have been detained and are being held in the office of the city's commandant.

Situation Turning Into 'Economic Instability'

LD1301024392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The curfew has not yet been lifted in Tbilisi, but it was announced today that the Military Council has been dismissed and the power in Georgia transfered to local elected bodies. One of its members, Jaba Ioseliani, explains the Gamsakhurdia phenomenon in Khrushchev's words addressed to Eisenhower: "You do not know what communism is—once you have fastened on to it, no one can drag you off." Gamsakhurdia has fastened on to it, and it was difficult to drag him off, Ioseliani believes. Nevertheless, the social and political situation in Tbilisi is being projected into economic instability. For example, immediately after the oppposition victory unknown persons armed with automatic weapons were robbing peaceful traders. Evidently, in the republic where the old traditions of corrupt power are still strong, the conflict that emerged was not so much about political passions as about Georgia's future economic system. The struggle between people in fur coats driving Mercedes against other people in fur coats driving Mercedes is far removed from the aspirations of ordinary people. Premier Sigua is running the risk of becoming an unpopular figure in Georgia in the near future because of his intention to carry out privatization and to take away the monopoly for food production from the collective and state farms which comprise 96 percent of the agrarian sector of the Georgian economy. The initially high prices will probably make the Georgians remember the "loaves of Zviad" who kept the bread prices artificially low to pacify the simple folk, while handing out lucrative jobs to others.

Shevardnadze on Relationship With Georgia

OW1401011192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1800 GMT 13 Jan 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: "'I Do My Best To Be Helpful,' Says Shevardnadze" (by Peter Vasiliyev, diplomatic correspondent); transmitted via KYODO]

[Text]

On the Possibility of Political Settlement in Georgia

Today there are realistic chances to reach a settlement. The most interesting stage in the formation of a democratic Georgia is beginning. Georgia has chances, and they should be used. It is quite a different question whether this comes to pass. Democracy is a key to a nation's future, insists Shevardnadze. Georgia, he continued, understands this well, and it has taken a correct decision vis-a-vis the dictatorial regime that used to stifle democratic freedoms in the country. Shevardnadze expressed assurance that the Georgian nation's wisdom would prevail and make it possible to conduct democratic transformations in the country.

There are, however, forces that are opposed to the construction of new democratic society but he believes that most people in Georgia hold reasonable views.

There are realistic chances to find solutions to the problems that seemingly defy solution. For example, he does not see any obstacles to reaching an agreement between the Georgians and the Ossets.

On Whether Shevardnadze is Prepared to Take a Seat on Georgia's New Government

Rather, the idea is for him to take part in the process of democratization and that of democracy-building, not be a member of the government, says Shevardnadze. It is not yet clear in what capacity he can participate? Shevardnadze keeps in touch with premier Tengiz Sigua, Jaba Ioseliani and representatives of different parties and movements. He does his utmost to be of help to his nation and people. He does not rule out the possibility of visiting Georgia to [as received] negotiations and consultations to reach a political compromise. At present he pays a good deal of attention to the organization of aid to Georgia, now a half-ruined country after natural disasters and fighting.

The former foreign minister is convinced that if the process of democratic changes gathers force in Russia, the world community and the Commonwealth member countries, including Russia, will do their best to extend solidarity and aid to his home country.

Whether Shevardnadze Plans to Run for Georgian Presidency

First of all, it is not clear whether this position will continue to exist. Premier Sigua recently claimed that the presidency would be suspended for some time. The authorities now believe that Georgia is not yet ripe for the presidential system and advocate a purely parliamentary republic.

As for Eduard Shevardnadze's role in the settlement process in Georgia, the main thing for him is to be of help to his country and nation, no matter in what capacity or form.

On the Possibility of Trial of Gamsakhurdia

This is not now the most essential issue, no matter whether he will gain political asylum or not, emphasized Shevardnadze. The main problem is to reach national accord and compromise. Georgia is in the midst of a watershed period, and national unity and conciliation are of a decisive importance for it. The nation has been divided, the situation is aggravated by lasting ethnic conflicts. At stake now is the attainment of peace between Georgia's ethnic groups. If the new leaders succeed in resolving this problem, a democratic Georgia will be possible, said Shevardnadze.

On the Possible Role of Georgia in the Commonwealth

It should first of all be decided whether Georgia joins the Commonwealth or not. It is quite clear, however, that stability in that country will be highly conducive to a normal life in, and normal relations with all peoples of, Transcaucasia and North Caucasus.

In the long-term, Georgia could play an interesting and important role in all developments we could come across in the Middle East, in the Commonwealth, if it continues to exist, in northern Caucasus and even in the Balkans.

On Attempts by Some Politicians to Divide the Army and the Navy

Now, as during his tenure as Soviet foreign minister, Shevardnadze supports the continued existence of a united military and strategic space [as received]; without it all pronouncements on the Commonwealth will be empty promises.

The military cannot resolve this issue on its own. Presidents Kravchuk and Yeltsin must find courage to prevent the current difficult situation from escalating into a full-scale conflict.

New Government To Consider Joining CIS

LD1301211292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[From the "New Wave" program]

[Text] The possibility of Georgia joining the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] will be considered by the new government of the republic, which will be formed probably in April 1992. Until then contacts with the Commonwealth will be of a consultative nature.

Russian Interior Troops To Leave 15 Jan

LD1401100392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1546 GMT 11 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text]—Interior troops under Russian jurisdiction are scheduled to pull out of Georgia on January 15th. In this context, Georgian Interior Ministry's main department has called on all officers and privates, who earlier left their places of service, to return to their military units. Volunteers, under 40 years of age, with experience in military service, are also being drafted to work as warders in Georgian labour reformatory establishments. A warder's salary will be 1150 roubles a month.

Democracy Movement Supports Gamsakhurdia Ouster

OW1201002692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Movement for Democratic Reforms views the ouster of Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia as "a step opening new opportunities for efficient democratic reforms capable of meeting the expectations of the Georgian people," says the movement's statement that was disseminated in Moscow on Saturday [11 January].

In spite of own [as received] election promises, says the statement, after Gamsakhurdia came to power, "an authoritarian regime was installed and ethnic strife was fomented, and human rights were trampled underfoot." "This regime doomed Georgia to a political, economic, moral and spiritual isolation from the world community," says the document.

On the day of mourning in Georgia the Movement for Democratic Reforms expressed condolences to the families of those who had died in fighting in Tbilisi in December 1991 and January 1992.

Political Motives Said Behind Railway Traffic

LD1201035192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Railway traffic in the direction of the Trancaucasus Railway has again come to a standstill in Sochi. A number of trains with 7,000 passengers on board destined for Batumi, Tbilisi, and Yerevan have accumulated on the Tyapse-Adler section. The station's staff has no knowledge of when the trains will continue their journeys. Previously the Georgian railway staff submitted demands for improvement of living standards and increasing wages. In this instance they have gone on strike due to political motives in relation with the latest events in Tbilisi.

Lack of Natural Gas Idles Plants, Enterprises

LD1001213492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2029 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] All production amalgamations, plants and enterprises, except those producing foodstuffs, are idled in Georgia due to a lack of natural gas Levan Gegeshidze, deputy chairman of the Grusgas concern, speaking to PF [POSTFACTUM], referred to the situation with gas deliveries to Georgia as disastrous. Gas is supplied from other republics, basically from Turkmenia. Interruptions in gas supply have become more frequent lately. Georgia is daily receiving 14 million cubic meters of gas, or even less, instead of the 28 million required for normal operation of industrial enterprises and public utility establishments.

Levan Gegeshidze, deputy chairman of the Grusgas concern, said that everything possible is done to avoid stopping bakeries. Minimal quantities of gas are being supplied to such large enterprises as the Rustavi Metallurgical Works and chemical plants because to stop them would mean to disable them. Considerable quantities of gas are being supplied to the Tbilisi State District Electric Power Plant which has mazut left for only two or three days of operation. Enough gas is being provided to satisfy public utility and consumer service needs.

According to Gegeshidze, the situation must improve following the commissioning of the Trans-Caucasian gas main going from Astrakhan through Mozdok, Vladikavkaz, Kazbegi and Saguramo to Tbilisi. It cannot be ruled out that one of the lines of the main will be put into operation in ten or twelve days, which will increase deliveries of gas to Georgia.

Estonia

Parliament Discusses Emergency Powers Proposal

OW1301211292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking in Estonian parliament Monday [13 January], Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar asked emergency powers in the economic sphere for his government. He said the emergency powers are needed until June 1, 1992.

Savisaar said that the emergency powers include "the right to take steps not established by law and to interfere with managing the enterprises, etc." However, he noted that this does not mean the return to the command economy.

At the same time, he said the emergency powers "do not mean that all powers will be in the hands of the government, the Supreme Council will have the possibility to control actions of the government."

The Premier also said that during the voting in Estonian parliament the question of emergency powers will be linked to that of non-confidence to the government (i.e. the negative result of the vote will mean not only rejection of the government's proposal, but also non-confidence to it).

Currently, the Premier's proposal is being discussed in parliamentary commissions. A final decision will be announced within 24 hours.

Some experts expect the parliament to reject the government's proposal.

Further on Food Supplies for Army Issue

LD1301165692 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Talks took place today in Tallinn between Estonia and senior procurement officers of the North-Western Group of the former USSR Army, on the issue of supplying the Army with foodstuffs.

Toomas Puura, head of the government's state and border defense department, said that the officers' proposals on the issue of procurement were not accepted and that the talks will continue. Puura said that the Army wanted to receive 40 items of goods from Estonia, but that their list had not been prepared particularly well.

Previously the officers' requests had been even grander— from bread down to quality brandy.

The Estonian side already sent last year, on 18 December a telegram to the USSR Ministry of Defense which explained that supplies to the Army would be stopped, inasmuch as the republic herself is short of foodstuffs. Taking the present situation into account, supplies to the military had to be abolished in January. The government has never aimed at supplying an alien army, Puura said. At the same time, he noted that should Estonia start supplying the Soviet Army with foodstuffs [words indistinct] this must be useful to the republic.

In the course of the 10 January working meeting, the military proposed the possibility that they help Estonia with fuel. According to Toomas Puura, the proposal is being considered.

Russian-Speaking Radio News Staff Walks Out

LD1301123192 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Jan 92

[From the "Topical Camera" program]

[Text] Here is the answer to one of your questions yesterday about the reasons behind the fact that the Russian language "Echo of the Day" radio program, which has succeeded in winning numerous listeners, failed to go on the air. All of the Russian staff completely walked out.

Circumstances are fairly confused but there can be no talk of any kind of a clampdown on Russians. Our colleagues from Estonian radio told us bitterly about the loss of a journalistic collective. Each of them has found a new job. Whatever the reasons which prompted this action, we sincerely regret that the republic has lost a Russian language information program, and not at all a bad one at that.

'Visa Regime' Introduced on Russian Border

LD1201051792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Oleg Popovich, Russia's official representative in Estonia, has stated that between Latvia, Lithuania, and Russia, agreements have been concluded concerning the visa-less entry and departure of citizens. On the Estonian border, however, a visa regime is being introduced.

Popovich also recalled that from 15 January, on Estonia's eastern and southern border, visa control is being introduced for entry into the republic. According to international practice, visa control has to be introduced also on the part of Russia. However, Russia does not have enough time to introduce visas from 15 January, Popovich stated. But plots of land for setting up Russia's border posts have already been allocated. At the same time, Russia's representative in Estonia expressed the view that the introduction of a visa regime between Estonia and Russia was only a temporary phenomenon. We understand perfectly well that Estonia now has reasons of its own for introducing a visa regime, but one hopes that after a certain time it will be abolished.

Monetary Reform Delayed Until April

LD1301162892 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Speaking before members of the Estonian Central Union of Trade Unions, Siim Kallas, president of the Estonian Bank, said that monetary reform cannot take place before April, because the new currency will not be ready before then.

ETA notes that, according to what Kallas said, spring is the earliest term for the reform. Some financial specialists have expressed an opinion that the changeover to the kroon should be postponed until autumn, because the implementation of necessary changes in the economy will take time. [passage omitted]

Tallinn Holds First Auction of Gas Supplies

OW1101014092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2011 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonia's first fuel auction was held in Tallinn today. A million liters of A-76 petrol was put on sale at starting prices of 10 roubles per liter in cash or 15 roubles by noncash payment and 250,000 liters of AI-93 petrol at starting prices of 15 and 20 roubles respectively. The petrol was being sold in quantities of between 1,000 and 40,000 liters.

At the beginning of the auction 5,000 liters of AI-93 petrol were sold at a price of 56 roubles per liter by noncash payment, but later on the price went dovn to 30-43 roubles per liter. The cash price for AI-93 was 18-21 roubles per liter.

Fuel Shortages Prompt Cuts in Hot Water

OW1301225492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Government decided January 13 to stop supplying hot water to houses with centralized heating systems due to black oil shortages in the republic. Warm water is being supplied only to hospitals, kindergartens, houses for elderly people, etc.

The decision was made after a meeting of the Estcnian governmental commission on fuel. It was said at the meeting that in January Estonia received not a single ton of gasoline or diesel fuel. It has received only 12 tons of black oil.

Experts estimate that Estonia will completely run out of diesel fuel and gasoline in a week.

According to the Estonian Government press office, Chairman of the parliament Arnold Ruutel sent a telegram to Russian president Boris Yeltsin January 13 asking for help in providing Estonia with fuel under the Estonian-Russian trade agreement for 1992.

BF's [BALTFAX's] correspondent reports from Tallinn that the Swedish Government has granted 4 million kronas to Estonia for the purchase of fuel. The Estonian Government decided to buy black oil for this money from the Swedish-Russian joint venture "Ural-Scandinavia".

Latvia

Resolution Issued on 14 Jan Military Exercise

LD1301200992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] All Latvia has been alarmed by the announcement of the decision of the command of the USSR Northwestern Military Group to hold military exercises on 14 January. In this context, today the presidium of the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia passed a resolution, as follows:

Considering that the command of the former USSR Northwestern Military Group, without any consultation at diplomatic or intergovernmental level, has in fact started military exercises involving the movement of troops and equipment in Riga, capital of the Republic of Latvia, and the whole territory of the state, and also noting that the presence of the Northwestern Military Group on the territory of the Republic of Latvia is unlawful and of the nature of an occupation, the presidium of the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia resolve:

1. Not to allow any maneuvers by the former USSR armed forces or unsanctioned movements in Riga, capital of the Republic of Latvia, and the entire territory of the state.

2. The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Guard service of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, the headquarters of the Home Defense Guard of the Republic of Latvia, and the local governments are to examine and implement this resolution.

3. The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Latvia is to present a protest note to the leaders of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

4. The resolution is to take effect at the moment of its adoption.

[signed] Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia;
Ivars Godmanis, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia

A second statement issued by Ivars Godmanis, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Latvia, states the following:

The announcement of combat training maneuvers and of the movement of equipment and troops from the Riga Garrison unit without agreement with the government of the Republic of Latvia through diplomatic channels is a gross violation of the norms of international law. In this context, the conduct of such maneuvers on the (?night) of 14 January is forbidden pending an official agreement between the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Latvia and Russian Federation. The agreement on this question with Andrejs Inkulis, chairman of the Riga City Executive Committee of the Council of Deputies, is invalid, because it is not included in the competence of the city Executive Committee.

I also announce that the time for holding future exercises must be agreed, alongside diplomatic channels, through a meeting of the minister of defense of the Republic of Latvia and the working groups of the headquarters of the Northwestern Military Group, as soon as your side has provided extracts from the plan for the military operations and combat training plan for 1992 and the confirmed schedule for the withdrawal of troops from the city of Riga.

[signed] Ivars Godmanis, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia

Protest at Military Headquarters

LD1301210492 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] At a time when the state and the people are recalling the victims of last January, the former Soviet Army has most [word indistinct] decided to embark on its scheduled combat training. Is it not it high time the Army moved beyond the borders of the three sovereign Baltic states? Such ideas were visible on placards today at the headquarters of the former Baltic Military District, now the Northwestern Military Group, in Riga, at the corner of Valdemara and Elizabetes Streets. They were a response to the call from the Latvian National Independence Movement for hundreds of Riga residents to express their negative attitude to the presence of a foreign army in Latvia.

According to reports from the headquarters of the Northwestern Military Group, which have been confirmed by the Supreme Council, the exercises will only be held at the places where the troops are deployed.

Godmanis Cancels Exercises

OW1301213692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Premier Ivars Godmanis and Commander of the North-Western group of forces, Colonel-General Valeriy Mironov agreed Monday [13 January] to cancel military exercises on Latvian territory scheduled for January 14. Godmanis said this at a meeting of the Latvian Popular Front's faction January 13.

Among the reasons for republican authorities' disapproval of the military exercises Godmanis indicated the fact that they coincide in time with the first anniversary of the tragic January events in Latvia. During these events which culminated in the attack on the Latvian Interior Ministry building by the Riga OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] January 20, 1991, seven people were killed.

Godmanis said that at a joint meeting January 13 the Latvian government and presidium of the parliament passed a resolution banning Soviet Army's exercises on republican territory, as well as their unauthorized movements. The republican Defense Ministry, Interior Ministry, the parliament's guard and local authorities have been ordered to monitor the implementation of the resolution.

The government and the presidium of the Latvian parliament have charged the republican Foreign Ministry with preparing and distributing a note of protest against attempts by the military to take "illegal actions" among the leaders of the Commonwealth nations.

Garrision Commander on Need To Withdraw Troops

OW1101012292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1522 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From "Bulletin 1"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Valeriy Frolov, commander of the Vilnius garrison, has said in an interview for the Latvian radio that "the Soviet Army must unconditionally withdraw from Lithuania." He called, however, for dealing with the problem "in a civilized manner" and observed that "our arrival during two days (the reference is to the 1940 occupation—BF [BALTFAX]) does not mean we should leave as quickly."

V. Frolov complained that the status of Soviet troops in the Baltic region was still undefined. He assured the local people that Soviet troops were not posing any threat to them and that the military would not inferfere in Lithuanian affairs in any way. The garrison commander said he had suceeded in establishing normal relations with the Lithuanian National Defense Department lately.

Valeriy Frolov was appointed Vilnius garrison commander after the August coup d'etat in the USSR.

OMON Allegedly Involved in Deportations

LD1301230992 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 2030 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] New information has been received about the activities of the Riga Special Purpose Militia Detachments [OMON] unit, the so-called Black Berets, and the possibility that they will confirm the charges against Parfenov, the leader of the unit, who is currently in detention.

On the night of 26-27 April 1989, the Riga OMON men are alleged to have taken part in the deportation of the residents of the village of (Kadzhavan) in Nagorno-Karabakh. As hostages, 24 residents of this village were taken to Azerbaijan, where their fate remains unknown. The Procuracy of the Republic of Latvia has stated that the cooperation of the Armenian Procuracy in the investigation would be useful. It seems that the acts performed by the Riga OMON in the Baltics have turned up yet again, this time against civilians in Armenia.

Parfenov Case Reviewed

OW1101235692 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1800 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Senior Assistant to Latvian Prosecutor General Rita Aksenoka believes "Sergey Parfenov's case is being investigated fairly." In her opinion, the request of the former deputy commander of the Riga OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] to transfer his case to the Russian Prosecutor's Office is unjustified.

"We have detained Parfenov on the basis of an agreement with the Russian Prosecutor's Office and there have been no violation of the law. Parfenov's accusations of the investigation team's preconception are groundless," she said.

Aksenoka said that the Latvian Prosecutor's Office is studying more than 90 circumstances on the Riga OMON's case. Currently, there are 278 formally recognized victims of power abuse, humiliation, beating, etc.

Parfenov's Interview

The deputy commander of the former Riga branch of OMON, Sergey Parfenov, who is in custody in Riga, has been interviewed by our correspondent. He said he still refused to give any evidence, for he thought the Latvian Prosecutor's Office and judiciary took a biased attitude to him. "They feel their prestige depends on the outcome of the case. They want to take revenge on the Riga OMON branch," Mr. Parfenov said.

"They call us bandits and murderers, but this not true," he said. Neither I nor any other branch member are guilty of any killings. Of course, we weren't all impeccable, but we were honest, we couldn't be bribed or intimidated, we were defending ordinary people and wanted justice.

According to Mr. Parfenov, the Riga branch sought to prevent tension and bloodshed in Latvia.

He also denied the claim that the Riga branch had been a combat contingent of the Communist Party of Latvia. "The party had no right to give us orders, we were not part of it and were only carrying out the orders of the USSR Interior Ministry and the decrees of the Soviet President."

Mr. Parfenov said the Latvian Prosecutor's office should not try and arrest any more branch members, for this would lead to "great bloodshed."

Not To Return to Russia

OW1201190592 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1735 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "So long as I hold this post Sergey Parfenov's return to Russia is out of the question", Yanis Skrastins, the Procurator General of the Latvian Republic told BF [BALTFAX]. "We are going to act on the basis of a joint protocol between Procurator's offices of Latvia and Russia", he said.

Sergey Parfenov, the former deputy commander of the Riga-based OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] unit, was arrested last year by Latvian investigators in Tyumen where the majority of the unit's members were evacuated in the wake of the failed August coup attempt.

Parfenov, Mr Skrastins said, was born in Latvia where his wife and four children live and where he has a residence permit. All acts he has been accused of were committed in the Latvian territory too. Mr Skrastins stressed that Parfenov's is a solely criminal case. However, it also has a political tinge since the Riga-based OMON unit was not only a unit subordinated to the Soviet interior ministry, it was "a weapon of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee".

According to Mr Skrastins, to objectively consider Parfenov's case it is necessary to hear a number of other former OMON members. In particular, a warrant has been issued to arrest Cheslav Mlynnik, the former OMON commander in Riga, who, the Latvian Prosecutor's office insists, is now in Russia. Arrests of two other OMON members, Andrey Chetskoy and Yuri Nareiko, who, Mr Skrastins said, had committed "malicious and cruel acts" are also being considered.

The Latvian Procurator General said it would take at least half a year to complete the investigation of the Parfenov case. "We are working slowly, but thoroughly", he added.

Wife Claims Arrest Illegal

OW1301181892 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1605 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Olga Parfenova, wife of Sergey Parfenov, ex-deputy commander of Riga's OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] commando force, says in a letter to the public prosecutors of Latvia, Lithuania and Russia that her husband was arrested illegally, that a plot was fabricated against him, that the inquiry was biased and that the Latvian prosecution council was obviously trying to settle scores with the Rigan OMON.

Latvian investigators arrested Sergey Parfenov in Tyumen, Siberia, last year on charges of criminal activity in Latvia.

Olga Parfenova calls to question the legal right of Latvian policeman to arrest her husband, as the arrest was based on a protocol between the Latvian and Russian Prosecution councils. She says that at the time of S. Parfenov's arrest, Latvia was already an independent state, whereas the protocol had been concluded when Latvia was still part of the USSR.

The wife of the former OMON member adds that S. Parfenov was not a Latvian citizen but a citizen of the USSR. Consequently Olga Parfenova considers that her husband "has the right to be protected by the USSR."

"No one has so far convinced me that my husband is guilty, and neither my friends nor I will agree to this sacrifice," Olga Parfenova said.

Independence Movement Urges Military Talks

LD1301181692 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] In connection with the intended military training, the Latvian National Independence Movement has demanded that the leadership of the Council of Ministers and the Supreme Council immediately begin talks with the command of the Northwestern Military Group and obtain a decision that the movement of military transport columns along the streets of Riga will be cancelled. If the command of the Northwestern Military Group declines to cancel the movement of troops on the streets of Riga, the leaders of the Council of Ministers and the Supreme Council are called on to take steps not to allow the movement of the troop columns in Riga, charging the Ministry of Internal Affairs or other institutions to carry this out. Should this demand not be met, the Latvian National Independence Movement reserves the right to organize a public action on 14 January to prevent the movement of the military column on the streets of Riga.

This document has been presented to the Supreme Council and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia, and a similar document has also been received by the Board of the People's Front of Latvia. Among other things, it says:

In the event that the movement of the Northwestern Military units, not sanctioned by the Latvian Government, takes place, a protest note should be presented to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the other leaders of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States; the attention of the United Nations, the CSCE, the European Parliament, and other international organizations should be drawn to the provocations by occupying forces in Latvia; and economic and political sanctions against the Commonwealth of Independent States and Russia should be demanded in the event that these troops do not begin to withdraw from Latvia immediately.

Leaders Said To Have Sought Presidential Rule

OW1401065392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2010 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leaders of Latvia asked Mikhail Gorbachev to introduce direct presidential rule in the republic in 1991, stated Anatoliy Denisov, a former Soviet peoples' deputy from St. Petersburg. In an interview in the St. Petersburg newspaper "Rush Hour" he explained why he appealed for presidential rule during the winter of 1991. Denisov was at that time participating on the Soviet side in negotiations with Latvia.

In his words, Latvian Chairman of the Supreme Council, Gorbunovs and Latvian Prime Minister Godmanis asked him then to promote the introduction by Gorbachev of direct presidential rule in Latvia, since they were unable to control the situation as they were "pressed by communists on the right and nationalists from the left." According to Denisov, on his return from Riga to Moscow he informed the Soviet President of Gorbunovs and Godmanis' request. Gorbachev refused their initiative, however, and suggested to Denisov that he make an appeal at a press conference for the introduction of Kremlin rule in Latvia from himself personally, so as to learn what the general opinion on this would be. Denisov claims that he was not able to publicize Gorbunovs and Godmanis' request earlier, since he feared compromising the reputation of those Latvian leaders.

'Week of Memory' Events in Riga Begin 13 Jan

OW1301225692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] January 13 is the first day of the Week of Memory of the January events in Riga. The Latvian Popular Front urges all residents of Latvia to pay tribute during this week to those who perished in the name of independence. During these events seven people were killed in Riga.

A picket of protest against Soviet Army's presence in Latvia began at 15:00 near the Northwestern group of forces' headquarters in central Riga. The picket was organized by the Latvian Movement for National Independence. About 300 people took part.

In the framework of the Week of Memory rallies, mourning services in churches, etc will be held.

Lithuania

Supreme Council Holds Extraordinary Session

LD1201173492

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 1308 GMT on 12 January carries a 165-minute relay of an extraordinary session of the Lithuanian Supreme Council in Vilnius. Reception is poor.

The relay opens with correspondent Virginijuas Miciulis describing the decorations at the Lithuanian Supreme Council building, including Lithuanian flags draped with black ribbons to commemorate the first anniversary of the Soviet crackdown on Lithuania.

At 1310 GMT, Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis opens the session by noting the presence of many foreign representatives and clergy in the audience and by inviting the audience to view some video footage of the Soviet crackdown. As the footage is described, Miciulis points out that this Council session is being carried in network on Lithuanian television.

Landsbergis then asks the audience to honor the memory of those who died during the unrest and invites deputies to deliver flowers to the sites of the killings and to cemeteries.

At 1330 GMT, the Council session agenda is presented and approved.

At 1332 GMT, Landsbergis begins his Council address. He concludes his address and hands the floor to Icelandic Foreign Minister Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson. Hannibalsson delivers a 12-minute address in English with passage by passage translation into Lithuanian.

At 1412 GMT, Latvian Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs takes the floor, speaking in Latvian with passage by passage translation into Lithuanian. He begins by noting that the "Lithuanian people, in defending their parliament on that January night, also saved Latvia and Estonia," adding that "we all are at the start of a path that is not and will not be easy." Gorbunovs concludes by stressing that Baltic unity provides a feeling of strength. After Gorbunovs ends his address, a 30-minute break is called.

At 1500 GMT, the session resumes with Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius addressing the session. Vagnorius introduces a draft proposal to change select provisions in the law on assistance to the victims of the Soviet agression and their families. At 1525 GMT, Vagnorius ends his addresss.

Vagnorius's proposal is then debated and voted on, with majority approval. An unidentified commission chairman then summarizes the commission's findings and urges deputies to adopt the law since no price can be placed on the loss of life or sustained injuries.

At 1529 GMT, deputies vote on and adopt the law, 110 deputies voting for, 0 against, and 5 abstentions.

At 1535 GMT, Landsbergis hands the Supreme Council Presidium's 13 January commemorative medals to Hannibalsson, Gorbunovs, representatives from Russian cities, Swedish representatives, and U.S. and Canadian diplomats.

At 1550 GMT, Supreme Council Deputy Chairman Motieka invites session participants to attend future commemorative events.

At 1553 GMT, the session and the relay end with session participants singing the Lithuanian national anthem.

Landsbergis Addresses Session

LD1201235892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1332 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Address by Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis at an extraordinary session of the Lithuanian Supreme Council commemorating the first anniversary of the Soviet crackdown on Lithuania in Vilnius—live]

[Excerpts] Esteemed participants: Today and tonight, we recall—and will remember for as long as we live—their attack and assault and our sacrifices and our scarred victory because such is the deep wisdom of our forefathers, which attests that the strong one is not the one who is beating but the one who is withstanding it. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

Two powers confronted each other last year in this area of the world: a bright spirit and a clouded body; a Lithuania being reborn and a Soviet land thrashing about in agony; law and lawlessness; freedom and force; humanity and inhumanity. Kudirka would describe it as the greatness of unarmed defenders and the baseness of attackers slaying with weapons. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

It is a pity that no one filmed the shaking hands of these generals for they searched the Moscow representatives' faces with troubled eyes while still cursing their victims. Might they not have to account for the deeds one day?

They were shouting a few weeks later: The president has betrayed us! Thus, they were excusing themselves, as if murder would have turned into a heroic deed had he not betrayed them. That which transpired in Lithuania at the beginning of January 1991 was the culmination of Lithuania's 50-year resistance and the last part of the USSR's stage of bolshevism. Resistance had already discovered new, political, nonviolent forms of struggle. It relied upon the nation's sovereignty and representative democracy, international law, and a belief in a higher justice. Bolshevism has based itself upon violence and falsehood. They instill fear and incite hatred everywhere. In this type of confrontation between values, there could not be any accord or compromise; moreover, the confrontation itself reached far into the past. We can now recall, from a relatively recent past, how on 11 March 1991 the Lithuanian parliament, expressing the will of a sovereign nation, adopted the act of an independent state's restoration here, in this same hall. A week later, enemies of independence, having convoked in Vilnius a crowd of people they themselves had incensed and intimidated, proclaimed that they were rejecting the Lithuanian Republic's Supreme Council decisions and that they would not carry them out. This is how the war of laws was declared upon Lithuania, which was later continued, in various forms, by the Kremlin's fifth column in eastern Lithuania. The Soviet Union's leader complained and threatened several times that it was Lithuania who started the war of laws against restructuring the country of ever greater socialism. If that was the case, the name of a self-liberating rather than a acquisition war of laws title would befit the line pursued by Lithuania. [sentence as heard] However, the Soviet leaders and propaganda experts could discern some more basic matters. Already at the beginning of the spring of 1988—and even more so in the fall—Sajudis formulated its task as the struggle for the country's sovereignty. [passage omitted]

We refused to elect the Supreme Soviet at the Moscow Congress of Deputies. We did not even go there to elect the president after that. A different position would have indicated that we acknowledged the Soviet Union as our state. No! [passage omitted]

We offered a friendly normalization of interstate relations. He became angry and criticized the supposedly impolite concept because he failed to comprehend that here rested the entire essence. Perhaps he did comprehend, since the entire Soviet propaganda struggle and its international world opinions were directed to prove that supposedly opposition arose in the middle of one state. It was explained and recounted that some sort of federalism and a separatism threatening all was emerging near the Baltic Sea. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

Our task involved demonstrating a struggle between two states: one that seizes and one that is being seized. Moreover, we hoped that our former occupiers would depart at long last. [passage omitted]

A year later, with Lithuania winning increasingly more international support and de facto recognition, the Soviets could not stand it any longer and revealed their full hand. They boldly proclaimed they had rights to Lithuanian citizens and were forcibly rounding them up en masse for their army. [passage omitted]

This is how the grave of Lithuania's sovereignty, filled with our own, but even with forcing hands, was to have been renewed. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

We once again answered with a no. The next day, on 11 January, wide-scale, bloody violence was initiated: the military occupation of the Lithuanian state institutions. [passage omitted]

People were being fired upon, and there were military exercises in Vilnius streets on 11 January. On 12 January, right here, in this hall, we addressed that open military aggression and declared that we would defend ourselves as a state under attack by another state. They were aware of the fact that in destroying us openly with arms, they totally lose the political battle; therefore, they were creating a thick smokescreen using very old methods. [passage omitted]

It was necessary to stage an internal struggle to cover the intervention in Lithuania of special forces and other foreign soldiers. [passage omitted] Our small country suffered the tragedy of 13 January and won. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

This is the treasure of love and fraternal solidarity which must not be lost under any circumstances. This is a world of hope which will be lofty and resist the rust of strife like a concrete tower which has already become so dear to Lithuania that it already has a different meaning. [passage omitted]

Vagnorius Addresses Session

LD1201220192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Address by Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius at an extraordinary session of the Lithuanian Supreme Council in Vilnius—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Freedom was won by the Lithuanian people and not by the government or the Supreme Council. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

The market economy does not offer the possibility of assuming someone else's achievements, of enjoying different conditions in privatization, taxation, the setting of prices and wage settlements. It is rewarding to see that the absolute majority of the Lithuanian people firmly understand this and give their firm suport to this. However, a state governed by law and order and the market economy is present when the democratic and legal forms are in effect and when these are firmly observed. We have practically completed the setting up of law and order and regulations needed for the economic relations which characterize a civilized state. The main attention this year will be given to ensuring that these economic and juridical norms were unconditionally observed. [passage omitted]

I can freely say that 1991 was the year of economic, social, and political reforms; 1992 will be a year of economic stabilization. This year will be the year of the last test of the Lithuanian people. After we transfer to the market economy, we can stop its fluctuations and do not succumb to the natural or artificialy created difficulties, then nobody will be able to arrest Lithuania's development and keep her from going strong. [passage omitted]

In the eyes of Western and Eastern states and of international organizations, Lithuania can and must remain an important agent in stabilizing the East European situation. Lithuania must proceed step by step with Latvia, Estonia, and her other neighbors. [passage omitted]

I want to remind you that we will have to do all the work. If we expect someone else to do the job for us, then aid will no doubt be ineffective. We cannot remain unconcerned about the unstable situation in the new Commonwealth's states. We feel the symptoms of their monetary system chaos and the shortage of food and other basic goods there. Undoubtedly, that has an impact on our market, as well. Therefore, we welcome in every way steps by Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and other Commonwealth states to reform their economy. We also welcome all the decisions of the Commonwealth states which help stablize the political situation in this region because the instable situation, no doubt, has an impact on our international and economic relations and has a great influence on maintaing traditional trade links. Considering the complex situation in the Eastern markets and the disrupted supplies from some of the Commonwealth states under pressure of conservative forces, our main task—I would call it a task of vital importance—is to integrate into the Western and other markets and raise the trade barriers as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

I think that Lithuania, as well as other Baltic states, will find more possibilities for integrating into the European economy sooner through the (?ETA) group of states and through maintaining closer mututal trade and political relations with the EC. [passage omitted]

Our attention today is directed at improving conditions for both our businessmen and foreign businessmen to establish and maintain mutually beneficial contacts. I think that some aspects of the law on foreign investment should be amended, adjusting it to the international standard. I think that the banking system will have to be essentially reconstructed so that it becomes acceptable and effective for the international settlements. [passage ommited]

Bilateral treaties have been signed with practically all the Commonwealth states. We can sign a bilateral trade agreement with the Commonwealth itself; however, I do not think that the Lithuanian people would ever agree to join the Commonwealth itself, even if they had to suffer great difficulties. Unfortunately, such attempts are sometimes felt. The government has a clear-cut short-term and long-term program of action. Our actions are adjusted not only with the internal political conditions but also with the situation in the neighboring states [words indistinct] for the time being we are not introducing our own currency. We sometimes do not adopt other important decisions which the Lithuanian people want. I would like to mention our internal situation. I could single out the most important factors which will determine Lithuania's present and future. I think that many of us are now trying by all means to maintain the stability of the political situation and of the internal forces and to avoid a noticeable and unnecessary confrontation which sometimes turns into destruction of the weak foundations of the state. I also think that successfully concluding the economic reforms which had started is no less important. I even think that the essential economic and social reforms have already been concluded. We now simply must stabilize the market economy. [passage omitted]

I also cannot avoid mentioning the Lithuanian people's concern over an accelerated withdrawal of troops of the former Soviet Union from Lithuania. We must remember that this situation also changed last year. It was the Soviet Armed Forces, but today there is no Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly, these troops cannot and will not be at Lithuania's disposal. However, I think that Lithuania has the right to make claims to a great part of the military equipment which should be left in Lithuania. [passage omitted]

The opposition in all states, especially those which have just been set up, must be a creative and not a destructive force. I think it is 100 times better to replace the government openly than to create conditions in which the government must be responsible for the consequences of the decisions which the government did not adopt or which it cannot adopt. A great responsibility today in Lithuania also falls on the Supreme Council's opposition, which is emerging gradually from minority to majority status. It is now responsible for the Supreme Council decisions and for Lithuania's future. [passage omitted]

Procurator General on Russian Extradition

OW1201191292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1735 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Procurator General of Lithuania Arturas Paulauskas and the chief procurator of the criminal investigations department, Juosas Gaudutis, have held a press-conference at the Prosecutor's office in Vilnius. They said that documents and evidence collected during an investigation show that the CPSU, the Soviet Army, the KGB, the interior ministry and OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment], as well as some other organizations started preparations for a coup d'etat in Lithuania well in advance. The military and high-ranking officials of the former Soviet Union supervised the organization of the failed coup.

The investigation would have been completed long ago, had the investigators been able to interrogate some people who are now hiding in Moscow and other Russian cities, the participants of the press-conference said. Vytautas Landsbergis intends to raise the question of extradition of those who took part in the tragic events of

January 1991 in Lithuania at his upcoming meeting with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow.

On the night of January 13, 14 people were killed when the Soviet military stormed the television tower and the television and radio center in Vilnius.

Polish Foreign Minister Visits, Meets Leaders

Saudargas Previews Visit

LD1001185292 Warsaw PAP in English 1508 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Vilnius, Jan. 10—Asked to size up the hitherto Polish-Lithuanian relations and their prospects in connection with the coming visit to Lithuania by Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas told PAP that all the time he viewed Polish-Lithuanian relations as normal.

He added that, in his opinion, these discussions which lasted throughout the second half of 1991 were somewhat caused by emotions. But he also viewed this as a normal thing as the times were pretty difficult and the changes taking place both in Central and in Eastern Europe as well as in the former USSR were so radical that one should expect emotions.

He said that with Minister Skubiszewski's visit both countries proceeded from the area of emotions to that of normal work. He remarked that he viewed Polish-Lithuanian relations with optimism as he saw commonsense taking the upper hand and good prospects.

He stressed that it was symbolic that Polish-Lithuanian declaration would be signed on such a sad day as January 13 and that it would be adopted in concentration and with deep reflection on Polish-Lithuanian relations.

Minister Saudargas pointed out that deep roots of Lithuanian culture, very close to Polish culture, were always felt in Polish-Lithuanian relations. He emphasized that they were still alive and promised to give good results not only for both states but also for entire Europe.

At the same time, the Lithuanian foreign minister voiced conviction that the delay in signing the Polish-Lithuanian declaration was not caused by the declaration itself, as only several sentences in it were made more precise.

Speaks on Eve of Visit

OW1201190292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1735 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mr Audrius Ajubais, the press-spokesman for the Lithuanian parliament, said at a parliamentary briefing that Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski who arrived in Lithuania and his Lithuanian counterpart, Algirdas Saudargas, are expected to sign two documents on January 13, a declaration on inter-state relations between Lithuania and Poland and a consular convention.

The Polish minister said to ELTA on the eve of his visit that the declaration would become a good foundation to further develop bilateral relations. "My visit is not a beginning of the relations", he stressed, "It is just a new stage in their development".

Mr Skubiszewski said also: "I believe, we will be able to sort out some difficulties the Polish population encountered in Lithuania. I mean a decision to re-instate self-rule in the Vilnius and Salcininkai districts. It is important to implement the declaration we are going to sign. That is why new border check-points should be opened as soon as possible".

Last year, the Lithuanian government took a decision to dissolve local authorities in the Polish-dominated Vilnius and Salcininkai districts of Lithuania, accusing them of supporting the State Emergency Committee.

Danish ambassador in Lithuania Dan Nielssen and Mr Preben Hoffman, the economics ministry secretary, held a press-conference at the Danish embassy in Vilnius. It has been said that Denmark prepared a package of measures in order to provide economic assistance to the Baltic countries, setting aside about $350 million for these purposes. It plans to fund agricultural, fisheries, telecommunications, energy, transportation and housing construction projects.

It has been announced that Days of Denmark will be held in Lithuania from January 17 to 18, which will include an exhibition of Danish-made goods and technologies to be attended by about 50 Danish companies.

Arrives; Protocol Criticized

LD1301035192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski arrived in the Republic of Lithuania's capital on a special flight. The meeting between the head of Polish foreign diplomacy and representatives of Lithuania's Polish community took place at the visitor's residence. I arrived to meet Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas to coordinate and to exact the declaration on friendly relations and good-neighborly cooperation between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland and to discuss the problem of future cooperation, Krzysztof Skubiszewski told journalists.

[Moscow TASS in English at 2250 GMT on 12 January adds in a Vilnius-datelined report: "Skubiszewski met with representatives of the Polish community in Lithuania. He expressed hope a Lithuanian-Polish declaration on good-neighbourly relations and cooperation expected to be signed on Monday [13 January] will help solve the existing problems.

["However, 11 deputies of the Lithuanian parliament issued a statement late on Sunday [12 January], urging the Lithuanian foreign minister not to sign the declaration.

["They called for an objective assessment of Lithuanian-Polish relations between 1918-1940, saying the declaration will 'legalise the results of aggression'.

["They urged a nation-wide discussion of the declaration and parliamentary debates on ways to normalise relations with Poland."]

Further on Meeting

LD1201194292 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1830 GMT 12 Jan 92

[No video available]

[Text] Krzysztof Skubiszewski, head of Polish diplomacy, has started an official visit in Vilnius. It is expected that a declaration on friendly cooperation and good-neighborly relations between Poland and Lithuania will be signed. Krzysztof Skubiszewski is a guest of Vytautas Landsbergis, president of the Supreme Council; the head of Lithuanian diplomacy; and also Poles living in Lithuania.

[Reporter] Algirdas Saudargas, Lithuanian minister of foreign affairs, welcomed Krzysztof Skubiszewski in Vilnius. The head of Polish diplomacy went straight from the airport to attend a meeting with representatives of the Polish minority.

[Begin Skubiszewski recording] I am extremely happy that we have an opportunity for a meeting and talks about our mutual issues. I do not need to add that I am very glad that my official visit to Vilnius is going ahead. This is an important event in the relations between Poland and Lithuania, and I think that after this visit and after the signing of the declaration, our relations will acquire a new intensity and will develop better. This is, I think, necessary both for Poland and Lithuania; it is also necessary, in our opinion, for Poles in Lithuania, whose issues are very close to us in the whole of Poland, and in Warsaw. [end recording]

[Reporter] The rest of the meeting was closed to the media. Krzysztof Skubiszewski then took part in the Holy Mass in the Polish church of the Holy Spirit in Vilnius. This is how he was greeted in front of the church. [sound of clapping] Tomorrow, the most important moment of the visit: the signing of the Polish-Lithuanian declaration.

Meets Saudargas; Declaration Signed

LD1301132792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0940 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Excerpt] As we have reported previously, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Poland, arrived in the Lithuanian capital yesterday on an official visit. This morning, the chief of Poland's Foreign Diplomacy Department met with Algirdas Saudargas, the foreign affairs minister of the Republic of Lithuania.

A declaration on friendly relations and neighborly cooperation between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland and also a consular convention between the Lithuanian Republic and the Polish Republic were signed at the meeting.

Following the signing of these documents, Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Minister Algirdas Saudargas noted: They were undoubtedly marking the start of new, friendly relations. After the signing of these documents, the road is opened for political negotiations of various levels and documents. Today, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the minister of foreign affairs of Poland, has also met with Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, and placed some flowers at the graves of those who perished for Lithuania's freedom. [passage omitted]

Skubiszewski 'Satisfied'

LD1301131192 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski has had talks today in Vilnius with Algirdas Saudargas, minister of foreign affairs of Lithuania. Also, Polish-Lithuanian plenary talks took place.

[Correspondent Krystyna Koziol] After the talks, Ministers Krzysztof Skubiszewski and Algirdas Saudargas signed two documents, a declaration on friendly relations and good-neighbourly cooperation and a consular convention. Both ministers stated that these talks had opened an important new stage in mutual relations.

Minister Skubiszewski stated in an interview: We are completely satisfied, although there is still a lot to be done. An official of the Polish Foreign Ministry said that the Lithuanian side has given us to understand that it had been waiting for the signing of the declaration and that it opened the way to detailed talks. Somewhat surprising to us was a several dozen-strong group of demonstrators outside the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry. They represented the League of Freedom of Lithuania and local Sajudis, and they were protesting against the signing of the declaration and against concessions.

From the Foreign Ministry, Minister Skubiszewski went to Antokol, where he placed flowers on the grave of the defenders of the freedom of Lithuania.

A short time ago, a meeting of Minister Skubiszewski with Vitautas Landsbergis ended in the Lithuanian parliament. This was a fruitful meeting, said Minister Skubiszewski afterwards. At this moment, Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski is attending a memorial service in the Vilnius Cathedral for the defenders of the freedom of Lithuania. Krystyna Koziol reporting from Vilnius.

Further on Cooperation Agreement

LD1301184192 Warsaw PAP in English 1726 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Vilnius, Jan. 13—The Polish-Lithuanian declaration on friendly relations and good-neighbourly cooperation signed in Vilnius on Monday provides for relations between the two countries to be based on "mutual recognition of state independence, observance of international law, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, principles of equality, good neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Both countries declare non-interference into their internal affairs and to refrain from the threat of the use of force or the use of force. They also announce that Poland and Lithuania do not have territorial claims against each other and will not have them in future.

Particularly much space is given in the declaration to the question of national minorities with regard to which both countries are to be "guided by European standards provided for in appropriate documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe."

Both countries will strive to create for their respective national minorities "opportunities to fully meet their linguistic, cultural, religious and educational needs...and to create guarantees of their non-discrimination in political and economic life."

Both sides will also "guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities that they will be able to use their names and surnames in the sound and spelling of their mother tongue."

Both countries are to refrain from actions that could "lead to nationality changes on areas inhabited by national minorities." The question of citizenship of members of national minorities living in Poland and Lithuania "shall be solved according to the international law."

The declaration includes provisions on future economic and scientific cooperation to be based on the principle of mutual advantages.

The governments of both countries are expected to sign an agreement on cooperation and youth exchange.

The declaration also provides for both states' consultations "on all matters concerning their bilateral relations" and cooperation in international arena as well as consultations "on international issues subject to interest of both sides" and cooperation within the Baltic conference.

It has been also decided that the principles of this declaration will be developed and confirmed in a Polish-Lithuanian treaty.

News Conference Held After Signing

LD1301205192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Report by correspondent V. Kanapienis on news conference given by Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas, Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski, and Polish National Defense Secretary Jerzy Milewski, following signing of Lithuania-Poland cooperation agreement, in Vilnius on 13 January; includes recorded segments of Saudargas and Skubiszewski remarks]

[Text] [Kanapienis] Krzysztof Skubiszewski, Polish minister of foreign affairs; Jerzy Milewski, secretary of state for defense and head of the National Defense Department at the Office of the President of the Republic of Poland; and Algirdas Saudargas, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, held a news conference this afternoon in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania. We learned at the conference that a declaration has been signed on friendly relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland. This is what the two foreign ministers said at the start of the news conference:

[Skubiszewski, in Polish] Poland's desire is to maintain the best and the most wide-ranging relations with the Lithuanian state and government.

[Saudargas] This is the start of cooperation between the states of Lithunia and Poland under new conditions both in our states and in international politics. This will be recorded in a document.

[Kanapienis] Following this, the ministers answered the journalists' questions. Algirdas Saudargas was asked: What is your assessment of the statement made by the 11 deputies of the Supreme Council (?signed yesterday) in which they oppose the signing of this declaration?

[Saudargas] The work on this declaration did not include the problem of assessment of the entire historical context, as mentioned in the deputies' statement. If the deputies discuss this issue in the parliament, and we are given powers to discuss this issue, then this question will be raised.

[Kanapienis] Mr. Skubiszewski was asked to give his point of view of the people who gathered here with placards outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. By the way, I must explain here that these people demanded that the historical past of Lithuania and Poland be evaluated, and of course stress was laid on the occupation of the Vilnius region. This is what Mr. Skubiszewski had to say:

[Skubiszewski] I cannot address all the slogans raised by the demonstartors because unfortunately I do not know the Lithuanian tongue. But on one of the banners I saw the name of General Zeligowski. I can assure Lithuania and Lithuanians that there will not be a second General Zelogowski.

[Kanapienis] Mr. Skubiszewski was asked what he thought about this visit, bearing in mind what had been planned at home, what the expectations are there.

[Skubiszewski] The visit is still in progress, the talks are still going on and that is why it is too early for a balance sheet. I am very pleased with the talks so far. This also applies to the subject that you raised, that is, the Poles in Lithuania. Let us also remember, this is also a matter that requires a certain time for all the problems to be regulated.

[Kanapienis] The issue of travel between Lithuania and Poland was also discussed at the news conference, as was the opening of new crossing points on the Lithuanian-Polish border and other issues.

Jerzy Milewski, secretary of national defensce, informed us about his introductory conversation with Audrius Butkevicius, Lithuanian national defense minister.

Declaration, Opposition Viewed

LD1301205692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1410 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Interview with Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Valdemaras Katkus by announcer, in the "Government Studio" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Now that the [Polish-Lithuanian] declaration has been signed, what is you view on the Lithuanian deputies' statement?

[Katkus] First of all it is very difficult to speak on the radio while people have not been acquainted with the text of the declaration yet. I think that in the next few days the newspaper LIETUVOS AIDAS will publish the text of the declaration so that the first step is taken not only between us, Lithuania, and Poland in setting up bilateral relations, but also in starting an open debate on the future relations between us and Poland. Here, in the statement, the point was raised that the draft should have been presented for public debate. Yet according to international practice, drafts are not normally made public, and this simply would have been a violation of the order of setting up international documents or treaties. Therefore, the intention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was to sign the first declaration so that the official discussion on our future cooperation could begin.

I would like to say that this is a declaration of two foreign ministers which, I think it is said in Article 10 of the declaration, states that a joint treaty between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Lithuania will be signed in future. This will be a major treaty that will be ratified by the Supreme Council, and another treaty will also be signed concerning the Lithuanian-Polish state border and drawing the actual border line, which will also be ratified by the Supreme Council.

[Announcer] This declaration was signed only five hours ago,the contents of which is not known to the Lithuanian people and even to me. Therefore, could you give some comment on the main points of this declaration?

[Katkus] The declaration consists of the preamble and 10 paragraphs which cover some main and principled matters. One of the... [changes thought] well the first paragraph states that both parties will respect sovereignty and territorial integrity, enjoying equal rights, neighborly concord, and mutually beneficial cooperation; they will respect human rights and basic freedoms, noninterference in internal affairs, refrain from threats to use force or the principles of its use. This is the first paragraph which is normally confirmed by two states.

The second paragraph speaks about the currently existing de facto demarcation line which has been drawn. It also says that the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Lithuania have no territorial claims to each other and will not have such claims in future. The present demarcation of the border is recognized by the parties as unchangeable at present and in the future in accordance with the principles of the Helsinki Conference. As is known the principles of the Helsinki Conference envisage the correction of borders but only by peaceful means and with the consent of both sides. Otherwise, the existing borders cannot be changed.

As I have said this paragraph will be detailed further in the Lithuanian-Polish treaty on the state border and a specific map will be attached to it. After the confirmation at the Supreme Council, Lithuania will be registered at the United Nations with its concrete borders.

The third article deals with the regulation of relations between national minorities. Paragraph four says that cultural and historical monuments which are on the territory of both states will be preserved. Possibilities for economic cooperation are envisaged in paragraph five. It says that certain treaties will be signed. Paragraph six is concerned with the ecological issues and the development of joint programs. Paragraph seven says that consular relations will be renewed. Today one of the first consular agreements has been signed concerning the possible movements of our citizens. In future agreements should be signed concerning the establishment of new additional crossing points, concerning the railway and so on. It is also said here that the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland will set up cultural centers: a Lithuanian one in Warsaw and respectively a Polish one in Vilnius. [Words indistinct] paragraph eight says that taking into consideration the special role of the young people in the formation of rapprochement and the development of relations of mutual understanding of both nations, the governments of the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland will sign a treaty on cooperation and interchange among young people. This means that foundations for the future will be laid, removing the tensions which we had inherited from the inter-war period and from the Soviet period. This paves the way into the future which is rather a complex matter. As I have mentioned already paragraph nine says that first of all questions which have arisen in the international arena will be solved jointly and consultations concerning international problems will be held, and both states will cooperate in the Baltic Conference process. [passage omitted] Paragraph 10 says that the major Lithuanian-Polish treaty will be signed which should set up various mechanisms concerning both the national minorities and the regulation of the economy, and as I have already mentioned, the issues pertaining to the state borders.

Skubiszewski Speaks at Parliament

LD1401125592 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1105 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski ended his first official visit to Lithuanian with a speech in the Lithuanian parliament. The head of Polish diplomacy emphasized that when tragic events were taking place in Vilnius a year ago, the whole of Poland was with Lithuania. Poland immediately reacted to the Lithuanian parliament's adoption of the Declaration of Independence of 11 March 1990, and later many times expressed support for the aspirations of the Lithuanian nation for the restoration of its statehood.

Minister Skubiszewski again expressed satisfaction at the declaration signed yesterday, which, as he said, is a modern document regulating Polish-Lithuanian relations in accord with European standards.

'Friction' Over Polish Minority Status Noted

PM1401093192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jan 92 p 5

[Correspondent Anatoliy Starukhin report under the "Fact and Commentary" rubric: "A Pan in Lithuania Is Not a Pan. Polish-Lithuanian Relations"]

[Text] Warsaw—What is the position of Poles in Lithuania? This question is constantly an object of heightened attention among citizens of Poland. We are talking of the Polish minority, which numbers approximately 300,000 and makes up roughly 10 percent of the population of the newly formed Baltic country.

Following its recognition by Poland, work began on a 10-point Polish-Lithuanian declaration on interstate relations. Serious disagreements arose over just one point, entitled "Status of the Polish Minority in Lithuania."

The specific stumbling block was the declaration of loyalty to the Lithuanian Republic, which was legitimated by the new authorities in Vilnius and which had to be signed by all persons residing on the republic's territory in order to become its fully fledged citizens. A rigid deadline was set—before 3 November 1991. But it is not even a matter of the deadline. The document was noteworthy for its manifest tendentiousness: compulsory knowledge of the Lithuanian language, residence in this land since the prewar years. According to the document, persons who had not acquired citizenship were deprived of a numbr of basic rights concerning the acquisition of property, enterprises, and land, the holding of responsible posts in state institutions, and so on.

A majority of the Poles, concentrated in Shalchininkskiy and Vilnyusskiy Rayons (60-82 percent of the population), refused to sign the declaration of loyalty. Last August and September the Lithuanian Supreme Council retaliated by disbanding the organs of self-management in the said rayons and also in the city of Snechkus, which is mainly populated by Russians, Belorussians, and Ukrainians. The conflict was deepening and simultaneously widening, also taking on an international hue. The Polish faction in the republic parliament, which had been waging a struggle against human rights violations, cut itself off.

Lithuania in turn accused Warsaw of "persecuting Lithuanians"—approximately 40,000 of them live in Poland. However, it was still possible to overcome the diplomatic impasse that arose over a single point in the declaration on interstate relations. During the final talks on 28 October K. Skubiszewski and A. Saudargas, the Polish and Lithuanian foreign ministers, managed to avoid the "reef" of the third point by adopting a compromise decision to exclude it from the document altogether.

But it is far more complex to expunge the nationalities problem from life. Following a relative lull, friction resumed with new force. At the end of the year the Lithuanian authorities incorporated the lands of Vilnyusskiy Rayon in the territory of... the capital. Why? This was, of course, a calculated move against the Polish minority. Under the local laws, urban lands are not liable to be returned to their former owners. K. Skubiszewski, who was preparing to visit Lithuania, at once declared that "there is not an atmosphere conducive" to the trip. L. Walesa, president of the Republic of Poland, sent a corresponding letter to V. Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council. Meanwhile, work was continuing in the "amber coast" country to eliminate Polish television's first program and local television broadcasts in Polish. Sejm deputies were forced to submit for the chamber's examination a draft law in defense of compatriots in the Vilnius district, who "are being subjected to progressive discrimination—which runs counter to the elementary demands of international law and to CSCE documents."

So it turns out that there were no problems of the national minority under the "totalitarian regime," while in a "healthy democratic situation" the democrats have found nothing better to do than to deny the inalienable human and civil rights of an ethnic group that finds itself within the mass of another people.